



**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 29, 2024  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**



## God Gives Both Substitute and Sacrifice

The Son of God took on flesh for two reasons: to be our substitute and our sacrifice. You see, when God created mankind in his image, his desire was that we would live holy lives, full of love for him and our fellow man. When mankind fell into sin, that became impossible. So, the heavenly Father sent Jesus. He is the only human being to keep all of God's law perfectly. He did that as our substitute. Through faith, we claim his perfection as our own. But we needed another gift—one who could pay for the sin we had committed. And so, the Son of God became human for another reason—so that he might die as the sacrifice for our sins, removing that barrier between us and a holy God.

Understanding we needed both—substitute and sacrifice—helps us better understand Jesus' saving work. That work includes more than Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus saving work began the moment he was born under the law and obeyed it. This week, we thank God that Jesus served us in both these much-needed ways!

## Opening 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

## *Be Seated*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

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M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father,  
I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.  
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.  
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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### PRAYER AND PRAISE

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M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

#### *Oh, Taste and See*

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -'.



## Prayer of the Day

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

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## THE WORD

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### First Lesson

**Isaiah 50:4–9**

The Servant of the LORD spoke through the prophet Isaiah. As our substitute Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience and trust, even when his Father asked him to be the sacrifice for our sin.

<sup>4</sup>The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,  
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

<sup>5</sup>The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;  
I have not been rebellious,  
I have not turned away.

<sup>6</sup>I offered my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from mocking and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,  
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,  
and I know I will not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near.  
Who then will bring charges against me?

Let us face each other!  
 Who is my accuser?  
 Let him confront me!  
<sup>9</sup>It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.  
 Who will condemn me?  
 They will all wear out like a garment;  
 the moths will eat them up. (NIV)

## Psalm of the Day

How Lovely Psalm 84a CW

### Refrain



### Tone



How lovely is your / dwelling place,  
 LORD Al- / mighty!  
 My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts / of the LORD;  
 my heart and my flesh cry out for the / living God.  
 Blessed are those who dwell / in your house;  
 they are ever / praising you. *Refrain*

Better is one day / in your courts  
 than a thousand / elsewhere;  
 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house / of my God  
 than dwell in the tents of the / wicked.  
 LORD Al- / mighty,  
 blessed is the one who / trusts in you.  
**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***

Tune: Thomas Pavlechko  
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## Second Lesson

## Hebrews 2:10–18

Through his suffering and sacrifice, Jesus has made us holy. He now calls us his brothers and sisters.

<sup>10</sup>In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup>Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

<sup>13</sup>And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup>Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. <sup>17</sup>For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (NIV)

## Verse of the Day

**M:** Alleluia. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations. Alleluia. (Luke 2:30-31 NIV)

*Stand*

## **Gospel**

**Luke 2:41–52**

Even as a boy, Jesus was acting as our substitute, demonstrating obedience to the Heavenly Father and respect for God's holy Word.

<sup>41</sup>Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup>After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup>Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." <sup>49</sup>"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be Seated*

## Hymn of the Day

*Peace Came to Earth* CW 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels  
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held the in - fant  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and  
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied  
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and  
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you  
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!  
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.; Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952

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**Sermon**

**Luke 2:41–52**

*Stand*



## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Be Seated*

## Offering

*Stand*

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).

## Prayer of the Church

M: Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

C: **Lord, we praise you.**

M: Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

C: **Give us faith and courage.**

M: Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas season, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

**C: Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.**

M: We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

**C: Govern and prosper your people.**

M: Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. [Keep in your care...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

**C: Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.**

M: Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

**C: Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

M: As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

**C: We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## 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.**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.  
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation,  
and bestow on us your saving peace, 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.

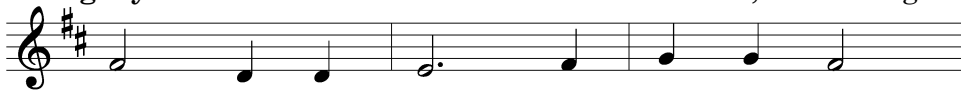
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Be Seated*

## Closing Hymn

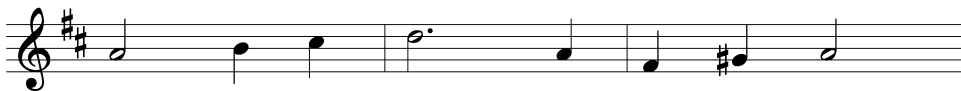
*O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is* CW 342:1-3



1 O Je - sus Christ, your man - ger is  
2 He whom the sea and wind o - bey  
3 Dear Chris - tian friend, on him de - pend;



my par - a - dise at which I am re - clin - ing.  
comes down to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.  
be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word  
Now God's own Son with us is one  
For God's own Child in mer - cy mild



made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.  
and joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.  
joins you to him— how great - ly God must love you!

## Acknowledgments

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*O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is*

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