



HIS GOSPEL IS PEACE

1517.

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)

9:00 a.m. ~ December 25, 2024

Christmas Worship



Welcome! Today the Christian Church sings its praise to God for the mystery of the Word who became flesh, the incarnate God, Jesus Christ. Our Savior Jesus Christ is both true God and true man, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. We celebrate this great mystery, recognizing that Jesus' birth into this world was the first step on the road to the cross, by which he paid for our sins and earned our salvation and redemption.

Today is Christmas Day. During the Christmas season, the Church focuses on the salvation of mankind who came in human flesh. The white paraments are used to signify the Godhead, eternity, perfection, joy and purity.

Worship Focus: God made his dwelling among us.

BATHROOMS are open. They are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

VISITORS are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

For most of you, putting on perfume, cologne, or aftershave before coming to church is just routine. But for a growing number of us in the congregation, those smells will lead to nausea, headaches, shortness of breath, and migraines. We are asking if you could please re-evaluate your use of fragrances before you come to church, especially during the winter months when the enclosed heated space will magnify the effects of the fragrances. If you could wait until you get home from church to spritz on the smells, it would be greatly appreciated!

CHRISTMAS

55

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



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 earth 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.

Please stand

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through His called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (Kyrie)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the well being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: CW 63

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

The Gloria in Excelsis (Latin for “Glory [to God] in the highest”) has been the traditional song of praise sung at the beginning of Christian services for centuries. The text of the Gloria may be found on pages 16-17 in Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal. The following hymn quotes the opening words of the Gloria, the same words that the angels first sang on Christmas night.

CHRISTMAS

63

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

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

Text: *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855; tr. *The Crown of Jesus*, Part 2, London, 1862, alt.
Tune: GLORIA (77 77 with Refrain) *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

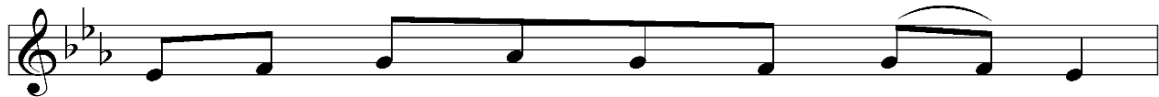
Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald, who proclaims peace and preaches good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God is king!” ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices. Together they shout for joy, because with both eyes they will see it when the LORD returns to Zion. ⁹Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, because the LORD is comforting his people. He is redeeming Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God. (EHV)

HYMN: CW 35

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Of the Father's Love Begotten



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.

1 In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. ²In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴The Son became as much superior to the 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? And again: I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. ⁶And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said: Let all God’s angels worship him. ⁷About the angels he says: He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire. ⁸But about the Son he says: God, your throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.-(EVV)

HYMN: CW 68

“Away in a Manger”

CHRISTMAS

68

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text: *Little Children’s Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, st. 1-2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3.
 Tune: CRADLE SONG (11 11 11 11) William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921.

Please stand for the Gospel

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 everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. 5 The light is shining 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 an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. 9 The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

After the Gospel, the minister and congregation respond:

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 54

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

CHRISTMAS

54

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep - herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
 Sweet new - born Babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed,
 His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 Its way in - to my heart un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: MANGER SONG (12 12 10 10) Carl. F. Schalk, b. 1929. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Sermon based on Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

No Fear

After the Sermon, please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH *Exerpts from the Athanasian Creed*

**It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe
that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.**

Now, that is the true Christian faith.

**We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ,
God's Son, is both God and man.**

**He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in
time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and
human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the**

Father as to his humanity;

**And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two
persons, but one,**

**One, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by
taking the humanity into God;**

One, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

For just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,

So God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,

And from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

This is the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

P: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though He is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that his precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

P: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Closing Hymn: CW 62

“Joy to the World”

CHRISTMAS

62

Joy to the World



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.

Officiants

Accompanist: Miller Sordahl

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

*ALL CHURCH SERVICE AND MUSIC ITEMS ARE PRINTED UNDER ONE LICENSE – A-717618.

A Blessed Christmas to you all!

Those who purchased a poinsettia plant for our Christmas services may take the plants with you after this morning's service.

We invite you to return Sunday, December 29 as our Christmas celebration continues. Our service will begin at 9:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study.



2024 Christmas Poinsettias



In Memory of . . .

In memory of our brother Bill Vitale and sister Thekla Schneider from Russ and Mona Vitale
In memory of loved ones from Ken and Gail Heusman
In memory of Dave Holsen and Arvin Schneck from Bryan and Deanna Schneck
In memory of Kenneth and Margaret Pitcher from Carol Pitcher
In memory of loved ones from Bari and Wendy Waltz
In memory of Becki Brasher and Birdie Duby (Paula's mom) from Mark and Paula Kipf
In memory of Gary Nied from Beth and family
In memory of Dannie M. Younglove, Hazel Younglove, and Annette Younglove
from Lee A. Younglove
In memory of Larry Miller and Tim Miller from Annette Miller and family
In memory of Roger & Della Premo and Frank & Evelyn Tomczak from Frank and Kris Tomczak
In memory of Adam, Muriel, and Richard Yeager from Tom and Ruth Moran
In memory of Rita Raasch, Jim & Norma Bechberger, and Harry and Frieda Raasch
from Howard Raasch and Juergen and Lorrie Koenig
In memory of parents Leonard and Leona Selvidge and Bobby Selvidge from Linda Selvidge
In memory of Ernest & Margaret Howerton and Urban & Mary Jane Trowbridge
from Robert and Joyce Trowbridge
In memory of Glen Eckel from Jackie Eckel
In memory of Lyle Kull, Kevin Kull, and Albert Kull from Maxine Kull

For Blessings Received . . .

Alan and Dottie Bober
Ray and Brenda Chandonnet
Jesus from Ray and Melanie Palmatier
Grandchildren from Larry and Deb Sachs
Linda Selvidge Family from Linda Selvidge
Sarah, Otto, Kirsten, Nigel and Zachariah from Jim and Kathy Vanisacker