



ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Christmas Morning • December 25, 2023



*The Word became flesh and made his
dwelling among us.
John 1:14*

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day

December 25, 2023

Welcome to Worship

BATHROOMS 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!

Serving in Worship

PianistMiller Sordahl

Prayer Before Worship

O Lord – God made flesh for us – we are assembled to hear your holy Word. We pray that you would open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

OPENING HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice 34

Please Stand for the Final Stanza

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

34

1. Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our
2. Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to
3. Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di -
4. Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly

voice; He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger
thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly
vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through sin and van - i -
ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With all his saints u -

lies; Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der
Child; Through thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most
ty; He for us ob - tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on
nite, Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and

skies. Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
mild, Draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
high. May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
light. Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

P: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ-Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ, and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

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**

Be seated

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

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; Come and be - hold him,
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes, On - ly be - got - ten
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove. Glo - ry to God all
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n, Word of the Fa - ther,



Born the King of an - gels.
 Son of God the Fa - ther. Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a -
 Glo - ry in the high - est.
 Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



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

LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

How Isaiah and the believers of the Old Testament longed to see these words brought to complete fulfillment! They are fulfilled for us this day. In Advent we have watched and waited for his coming in grace to save us from judgment. And now, in the Christmas Gospel, he is finally here! Shout for joy, sing with the saints and angels, even amid the ruins in life caused by sin! The one, the true, the only redeemer and Rescuer is here! God has kept his word! We will see his salvation in this holy Child! Hidden in the lowliness of the manger is the glory of God for our salvation.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98



Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things

Sing to the LORD a new song,*
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known*
And revealed his righteousness to the nation.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;*
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,*
burst into jubiant song with music;

Make music to the LORD with the harp,*
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.*
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 beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-9

Don't be fooled by the lowliness. Be very glad that the Savior has come in the form and appearance of a little baby. But don't think that that is all there is to it. Oh no, by no means! His lowliness keeps us from running away in dread and terror, for he wants us to draw near. Peer into the manger: there he is who is greater than all the angels, who is in fact their creator and the one whose praises they sing; there he is the Almighty, the Eternal God in the form of a baby; there he is the Holy One, the Only Begotten Son, who has come to conquer our wickedness and give us his holiness. Worship and adore!

Gospel

John 1:1-14

Who is it that we receive in the manger of our heart this day? Not just a cute and cuddly baby! No, that lowliness of form is designed to make it possible for us to receive Light brighter than the sun, the Creator of all that is, the Eternal God, the Child who makes us God's children. As the manger and the Virgin's arms held him whom the heavens cannot contain, so we too recognize and receive him who has come in human flesh and blood to dwell in us through the Word and sacrament. It is in the Word and sacrament that we recognize him and receive him, the One who receives us.

1. All praise to you, eter - nal God! Now;
 2. Once did the skies be - fore you bow; A
 3. O lit - tle Child, be you were our guest That
 4. You came to us love in dark est night To
 5. All this your love for us has done; By

3 clothed in hu - man flesh and blood, You
 vir gin's arms con - tain you and now While;
 wea - ry ones in in - dren of you take the rest; For;
 make us chil - dren for you the light; For;
 this our love for you is won' For

5 took a man - ger for you your throne while;
 an - gels, who in you re - joice, now;
 lorn and low ly was your birth That;
 an - gels in the realms di - vine A;
 this our joy - ful songs we raise And

7 worlds on worlds are yours a lone.
 lis - ten for are your in - fant voice.
 we might rise to we, in heav'n from earth.
 shout your throne thanks in cease - less will shine.
 praise!

The Simple, Saving Truth of Christmas

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

61



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 you 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 we no more may die,



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



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

Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day 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: O Lord, we adore you.**
- M: Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and Sacrament and, by your Holy Spirit, give us strength to overcome Satan's power and pride. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.
- C: O Lord, give us faith and courage.**
- M: Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming 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, 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 great city, for its neighborhoods and suburbs, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of our government wisdom, courage, and unity as they address the serious challenges facing our country. Grant our nation peace and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to people around the world.
- 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. 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: 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.

PRAYER

M: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son (✠), and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

Joy to the World

62



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth, the Sa - vior reigns! Let all their
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; Let ev -'ry heart pre - pare him room And
songs em - ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re -
fest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow Far
na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness And



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