



The Nativity of Our Lord 2023
“The Liturgy of the People”

Zion Lutheran Church
Wausau, Wisconsin

10:00 a.m.

Sharing God's Blessings

- Tonight's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Janean Andrus, Julie Deverell, Hugh Gresens, Faye Zernicke and Karla Tennant in loving memory of their mother, Marjorie Gresens Raddatz, who was a long-time member of Zion Lutheran Church and who listened every week to Zion's radio broadcasts when she was homebound during the latter years of her life.
- The fresh evergreen trees at the altar are sponsored anonymously by grateful Zion members. The trees are decorated with *chrismons*, symbols of Christ, handmade by Zion members.
- Please refer to the bulletin insert for a listing of all who gave to the Christmas Decorating Fund.

Zion's Crèche in the Chapel

The 19 figures in Zion's crèche represent the first Christmas: The Holy Family, the Shepherds and the Wise Men, the Animals, and the Angel of the Lord. Hand-carved for us by craftsmen in the Black Forest of Oberamergau, Germany, the figures are made from linden wood. They were purchased in New York City in 1964 by Rev. Dale Hansen, former Zion pastor (1961-1974). Mrs. August C. (Ottile) Mueller, a member of Zion, donated the money for the carvings as a gift to the children of the parish. Herbert Ladwig, a Zion parishioner, constructed the wooden stable in 1964.

Welcome to the Liturgy of the People

Starting with afternoon and evening prayer, the ancient worship of Christmas leads us from the starry skies full of angels to Bethlehem and now this, the great culmination for which God did it all: the Liturgy of the People. Yes, God sent His Son for the sake of what happens in this very service: good news is preached, sins are forgiven, and the body and blood of Christ are given and received, full of forgiveness, life, and salvation. What else is there to do but enjoy and give thanks?

PRELUDE

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" ... Dallas Blair
Pastorale from "Christmas Concerto" ... Arcangelo Corelli
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" ... Dallas Blair

RINGING OF THE BELLS

The ministers process to the chapel and assemble before the crèche.

Please kneel.

ADORATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

P: O blessed Christ, the radiance of glory;
O blessed Christ, eternal Son of the Father;
O blessed Christ, born of the virgin Mary:

C: **O Jesus, very light of light, our constant star in sin's deep night; now hear the prayers your people pray throughout the world this holy day.**

P: O blessed Child, pure sacrifice for sins;
O blessed Child, firstborn from the dead;
O blessed Child, enthroned in splendor:

C: **O Savior, ever bear in mind the grace you showed to all mankind, when, born in flesh of virgin womb, you authored life within the tomb.**

P: O Prince of peace, the spring of mercy;
O Prince of peace, redeemer of the world;
O Prince of Peace, who was and is and is to come:

C: **O Christ, redeemer virgin-born, let songs of praise your name adorn whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore. Amen**

Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

*He lies in
swaddling
clothes but
shines amid
the stars. The
cradle shows
His birth, the
Stars His do-
minion.
~ Ambrose
of Milan,
d. 397 A.D.*

Why does the Church ask us to meditate on these sad thoughts (looking forward to the cross) while still within sight of the manger? Surely, she wishes us to celebrate a joyous and happy Christmas. Yet . . . [o]ur Lord's birth marks the beginning of a hard and bitter life for the Redeemer. We must view this life as a whole, as sacrifice of humiliation that is crowned by His death on the Cross . . .

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

**C: Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Child, for us sinners Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, Loving us so dearly?
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

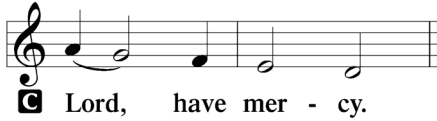
GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

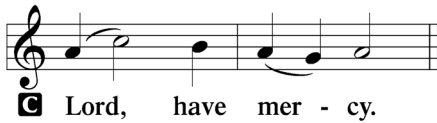
C: And also with you.

KYRIE

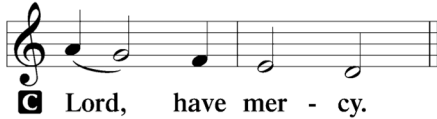
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



... Christ's entire life on earth, from birth to death, was a horrible abasement and deprivation. It was the price of our salvation. We must bear this in mind if we are to understand His birth in the stable. His entire life was a sacrifice.
~ Fred H. Lindemann, The Sermon and the Propers

For the world Christmas is the end of something, for the church it is a beginning. Each December I am astonished that on the radio and in the stores Christmas music ceases at once the day after Christmas, and already on the morning of December 26, the disc jockeys begin talking about Christmas in the past tense. Yet on the second day of Christmas the church has just begun her celebration and will continue to sing "Gloria in excelsis Deo" until Epiphany...

GLORIA

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and
 Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we
 praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a - lone are the
 Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord, You a -
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only -begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38

¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

. . . Saint Leo said the birth of Christ is the source of life for the Christian folk. He did not say for the individual Christian, but for the Christian people. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost, the church came into being. Those who followed Christ and believed in him were made into a fellowship, a community unlike any other, defined not by race or ethnicity or geography, but by the head, the living Christ . . .

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... Christianity is not a religion of individuals who just happened to gather together to worship and pray or to pool resources for the service of others. When you were baptized you were baptized into Christ. He is the "source and ending" of all, and we are all one in him.

Glory to God
in the Highest.

~ Robert Louis
Wilken
"A Christmas
Sermon," The
Apostles
Creed

PSALMODY *Psalm 98*

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

L: Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salva- | tion for him.

C: The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | na-
tions.

L: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation | of our God.

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

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

C: Sing praises to the LORD | with the lyre,*
with the lyre and the sound of | melody!

L: With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*
make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!

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

L: Let the sea roar, and all that | fills it;*

the world and those who | dwell in it!

**C: Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together be- | fore the LORD,*
for he comes
to | judge the earth.**

L: He will judge the world with | righteousness,*
and the peoples with | equity.

**All: 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**

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

EPISTLE Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

God so loved us that for our sakes he, Through whom time was made, was made in time;

Older by eternity than the world itself, He became younger in age than many of his servants in the world; God, who made man, was made man . . .

VERSE "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. Alleluia!

VERSE "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"



3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n-ly ground?



Death was reign-ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n-ly joy and light.



May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us

... He was given existence by a mother Whom he brought into existence; He was carried in hands which he formed;

He was nursed at breasts which he filled; He cried like a baby in the manger in speechless infancy –

This Word Without which human eloquence is speechless.

~ Augustine, d. 430 A.D.

*Hand in hand
must we take
each other
and be bliss-
ful and hap-
py; for man
has re-
nounced the
devil of hell
and God's
son is our
spouse. A
child is born
among me,
and in that
child was no
blemish: that
child is God,
that child is
man, and in
that child our
life began.
~ Medieval
English
verse*

under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth"

... LSB #382

Stanzas 1 & 2 – All

Stanza 3 – Women

Stanza 4 – All

Stanza 5 – Men

Stanzas 6 & 7 – All

SERMON "He Took, He Broke, He Gave"

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ, the everlasting God and Son of Mary, let us pray.

P: . . . O King of Kings,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

OFFERTORY "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

... J. S. Bach

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, heavenly Father, for the priceless gift of your Son, sent into our flesh to redeem the creation. Grant that we may now so eat of his flesh and drink of his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us.

C: **Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

And al-so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS ("Holy")

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

You have heard it said that the family that prays together stays together. I say to you that the family that eats together stays together... And if mealtimes are basic for the unity and maintenance of human families, how much more basic is this table fellowship for the family of God. Something sacred happens to people who have shared food and drink.
 ~ William H. Willimon
Worship as Pastoral Care

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

ACCLAMATION

P: The Word was made flesh

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")



☐ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith,

The most important things to do in the world are to get something to eat, something to drink and somebody to love you
~ Brendan Behan (1923 -1964 A.D.), Irish poet, short story writer, novelist, and playwright

binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Unto Us a Child is Born"	... Laura Farnell
"Angels We Have Heard on High"	... LSB #368
"See Amid the Winter's Snow"	... LSB #373
"Away in a Manger"	... LSB #364
"Infant Holy"	... LSB #393

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O God of wonder, we have tasted your goodness, and beheld your presence in the Word made flesh. Shine forth his light in all we say and do, and fill the earth with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Please turn toward the cross as it is carried out of the sanctuary.

RECESSIONAL HYMN "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



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



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

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

... Jacob B. Weber

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

**A Prayer
As You Go**

Almighty and everlast-
 ing God,
 who stooped
 to raise fallen
 humanity
 through the
 child-bearing
 of blessed
 Mary;
 grant that
 we, who
 have seen
 your glory
 revealed in
 our human
 nature
 and your
 love made
 perfect in our
 weakness,
 may daily be
 renewed in
 your image
 and con-
 formed to the
 pattern of
 your Son
 Jesus Christ
 our Lord.
 Amen.
 ~ Collect of the
 Blessed Vir-
 gin Mary

Serving at Worship

<u>Presiding:</u>	The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
<u>Preaching:</u>	The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde
<u>Organist:</u>	Kantor Irene Beethe
<u>Trumpet:</u>	Chad Premeau
<u>Violin/Timpani:</u>	Mary Premeau
<u>Choir:</u>	The Zion Kantorei
<u>Radio:</u>	Dick Ames
<u>Lector:</u>	Jessica Ray
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Sarah Gjerde, Brennan Hochberger, Ethan Hochberger
<u>Communion:</u>	Gary Gisselman, Rob Kittel
<u>Elder:</u>	Lois Jarosz
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	Donna Nuernberg, Anna Mae Zeinemann

Acknowledgements

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“Joy to the World”: Text and Tune: Public Domain.

Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

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Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Kantor Irene Beethe
Office Manager Jessica G. Ray
Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
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