



The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord 2023
“The Liturgy of the Shepherds”

Zion Lutheran Church
Wausau, Wisconsin

8:00 p.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 Shepherds

This service, the Liturgy of the Shepherds, is a time to *adore*. *Adoration* is what the shepherds did when they ran to Bethlehem. They knelt before the King of heaven, now born as a humble, human servant on earth, and they adored the little guy. At this second service of Christmas, we do the same, coming to Jesus as He comes to us in the Holy Supper, still in His humble humanity of body and blood, to receive Him with thanksgiving, adoration, and praise. *Cover art: Adoration of the Shepherds, by Gerit von Honthorst, Dutch painter, d. 1656 A.D., detail.*

PRELUDE Selections by Flute and Piano

RINGING OF THE BELLS

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

**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!**

**See how the shepherds, Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, Draw nigh to gaze!
And we, rejoicing, Swiftly add our footsteps:
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!**

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

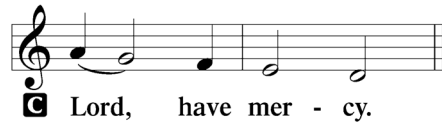
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

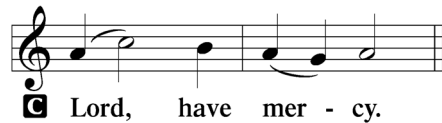
Before Thy birth, O Lord, the angelic hosts looked with trembling on this mystery and were struck with wonder: for Thou who hast adorned the vault of heaven with stars hast been well pleased to be born as a babe . . .

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.



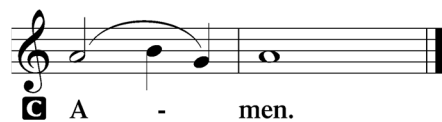
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



GLORIA

P: 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.

... and Thou who holdest all the ends of the earth in the hollow of Thy hand art laid in a manger of dumb beasts. For by such a dispensation has Thy compassion been made known, O Christ, and Thy great mercy: Glory to Thee. Amen.

~ Festal Menaion of the Orthodox Church; hymns from the Third Hour and Matins

SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: O God, you made this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day awake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*The golden
incenser is
the Virgin,
and its pleas-
ant scent is
our Saviour.
~ Coptic
Orthodox
Chant*

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
 there will be no end,
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
 to establish it and to uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL "O Sing of Christ"

Soloist: O sing of Christ, whose birth made known
 The kindness of the Lord,
 Eternal Word made flesh and bone
 So we could be restored. Upon our frail humanity
 God's finger chose to trace the fullness of His deity,
 The icon of His grace.

Congregation:

2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.

*Money never
 made a man
 happy yet,
 nor will it.
 There is noth-
 ing in its na-
 ture to pro-
 duce happi-
 ness. The
 more a man
 has, the more
 he wants...
 That was a
 true proverb
 of the wise
 man, rely
 upon it;
 "Better is
 little with the
 fear of the
 Lord, than
 great treas-
 ure, and trou-
 ble therewith.
 ~ Benjamin
 Franklin
 Tryon Ed-
 wards, A
Dictionary
of Thoughts*

*To tell us that
God is with
us, the heav-
ens open in
Bethlehem
and the glory
of heaven
streams forth
upon the
earth. God
comes to
earth and
opens the
gates of Para-
dise once
more. They
stand open
ever since!
"He opens us
again the
door of Para-
dise today."
Heaven is the
Presence of
God, and
heaven has
come to
earth . . .*

EPISTLE Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

VERSE

L: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord.

Let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord our Maker

Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2: 15-20

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

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 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 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Soloist: From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

*... Christmas means that God is present among men, to be worshiped on bended knee as He is adored in heaven. Christmas means that God companies with men and communes with sinners. Christmas means that we are traveling toward the open gates of home into the Presence of God. We are to spend eternity worshipping and adoring Him, in having sweet communion and fellowship with our Lord and King.
~ Fred H. Lindemann, The Service of the Propers*

Christians
love one an-
other.

They never
fail to help
widows; they
save orphans
from those
who would
hurt them. If
a man has
something, he
gives freely to
the man who
has nothing.
If they see a
stranger,
Christians
take him
home and are
happy, as
though he
were a real
brother.

They don't
consider
themselves
brothers in
the usual
sense, but
brothers in-
stead through
the Spirit of
God . . .

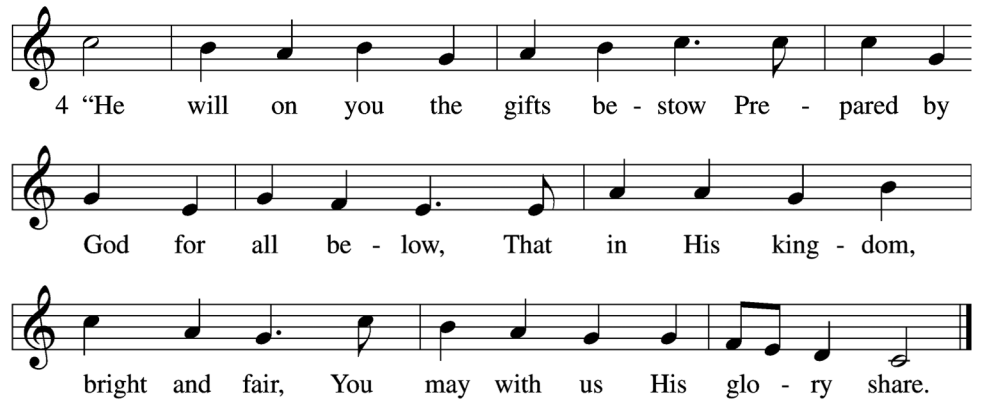
Congregation:



2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

Soloist: This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

Congregation:



4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

Soloist: These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made.

Congregation:

6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the
 shep - herds let us go To see what God for
 us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.

SERMON "Ever-Increasing"

HYMN OF THE DAY "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, Pre - pare a
 14 My heart for ver - y joy must leap; My lips no
 15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to
 bed, soft, un - de - filed, A qui - et cham - ber
 more can si - lence keep. I, too, must sing with
 us His Son has giv'n! While an - gels sing with
 set a - part For You to dwell with - in my heart.
 joy - ful tongue That sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
 pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Please kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

... And if they hear that one of them is in jail, or persecuted for professing the name of their Redeemer, they all give him what he needs. If it is possible, they bail him out. If one of them is poor and there isn't enough food to go around, they fast several days to give him the food he needs.

This is really a new kind of person. There is something divine in them.

~ from a report given by a pagan official, Aristides, to the Emperor Hadrian (117-138 A.D.), who was seeking justification to outlaw Christianity

This is the month, and this the happy morn, Wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King, Of wedded maid and virgin mother born, Our great redemption from above did bring, For so the holy sages once did sing, That He our deadly forfeit should release, And with His Father work us a perpetual peace.

~ John Milton, d. 1674

*A.D.,
On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*

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**

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

"O Holy Night"

... Adolphe Adam

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.



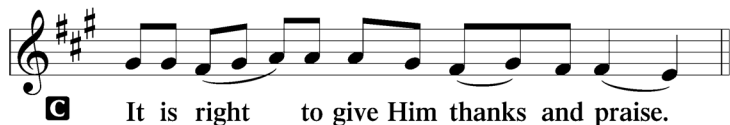
C And al-so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

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



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
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.

*All sorrows
are less with
bread.
~ Miguel de
Cervantes,
Don Quixote*

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;



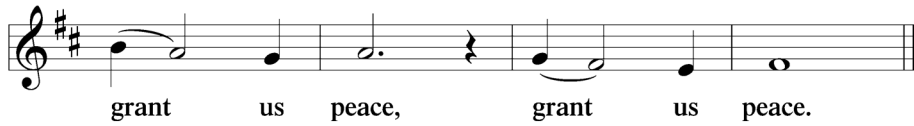
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



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



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



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 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 ours sins, strengthens our faith, 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

- "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ... LSB #361
- "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" ... LSB #377
- "Go Tell It on the Mountain" ... LSB #388

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

**A Prayer
As You Go**
Thy epiphany, O Lord, made the earth leap for joy... The choir of shepherds on earth glorified thy all-saving advent. Today, the Word who sits on the throne of glory with the Father became flesh, born of the holy Virgin, giving the universe the grace of adoption.
~ Ephraem, 300s A.D.

Please light your candles from the aisle candles.

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night!"



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Please extinguish your candle, holding it upright until it cools.

Place your candle in the baskets by the exits.

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.

C: Amen

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.

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

... Charles W. Ore

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Presiding: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde
Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe
Flute: Dr. Jacob Roseman
Piano: Dr. Molly Roseman
Soloist: Karla Tennant
Radio: Paul Fandrey
Lector: Lynn Budnik
Acolytes: Piper Kulesa, Wyatt Kulesa, Nik Strand
Communion: Lois Jarosz, Jake Schneider
Elder: Ken Rodemeier
Altar Guild: Donna Nuernberg, Anna Mae Zeinemann

Acknowledgements

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Christmas Worship at Zion

Christmas Day: Holy Communion, 10 AM (WSAU)

December 30: Holy Communion, 5:15 PM

December 31: Holy Communion, 9 & 11 AM

New Year's Eve Worship

December 31: Holy Communion, 6:30 PM

Please see the back cover for more information.

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)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

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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To visit our webpage:
www.zionlutheranwausau.com

Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

**Member Congregation of Lutheran Con-
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