

# The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2007

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS

**Preservice Music**      *O Most Wonderful*      Band

**Opening Hymn:** *“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”*      42

*Stand*

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: (spoken) **And also with you.**

## **Confession of Sins**

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M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

## **Prayer and Praise**

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### **Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)**

M: For the blessed conviction that you are the Son of God, and that you were born in Bethlehem to keep the Law of God perfectly in our place and to give your life into death for our redemption, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: (sung) **Lord have mercy.**

M: For the determination to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness to all the world and to administer the Sacraments faithfully according to your institution, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C:** (sung) **Christ have mercy.**

M: For your blessing on us as a fellowship of believers united in you and eager to do your will, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** (sung) **Lord have mercy.**

M: Merciful Lord, open our eyes to behold your glory as the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**C:** (sung) **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**O Lord, Our Lord** (sung)

**C: O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take away our sins; you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight. You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us; you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**Prayer of the Day**

M: Son of God, we praise you for coming to earth on the first Christmas to live the life we could not live and to die the death we were doomed to die. We thank you for coming to us still today in Holy Communion. How grateful we are that together with the bread and wine, you share with us your very body and blood, given and shed for us on the cross. As we celebrate your coming to earth to become one of us, help us rejoice also in your continual coming to us in this precious sacrament. Strengthen our faith. Cause our love to increase and our hope to grow, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, now and forever.

**C:** (sung) **Amen.**

## **The Word**

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**First Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

**Psalm of the Day:** Psalm 98 (p. 103)

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in 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. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father " ? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

M: Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law.  
Alleluia. (Ga 4:4,5)

**C:** (sung) **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Stand*

**The Gospel:**

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C:** (sung) **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn:** *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*

Hymn 35

**Sermon:** **Jesus is the Great Christmas Light**

John 1:1-14

A unique light

A glorious light full of grace and truth

**Offering**

**Musical Offering**

*Come to the Manger*

Church Band

*Stand*

## **The Christmas Prayer**

M: Father, we praise you for proclaiming to us the message of Christ, your Son, born to redeem us. We join the heavenly host of angels in lifting up our voices and shouting for joy at the good tidings of peace which you have brought us. We sing your praises for comforting us with the message of salvation.

**C: Help us spread the good news of a Savior from sin to all the ends of the earth.**

M: Gracious Lord God, we thank you for fulfilling the message you spoke through the prophets to send your Son to be born of a virgin. We praise you for speaking to us through your Son who is the very radiance of your glory and the exact representation of your being. We rejoice that your Son provided purification for all sins and still sustains all things by his powerful word.

**C: Cause us to respond to the gift of you Son by returning to you the firstfruits of all we are and have.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Merciful Father in heaven, as we today receive that assurance of our salvation in the blessed Sacrament of the Altar, help us recognize and appreciate the bond of faith that unites us. Preserve among us the right understanding and use of the Means of Grace, and assist us in passing on these precious treasures to the generations yet to come.

**C: Amen.**

## **The 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.**

## **The Sacrament**

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M: The Lord be with you.

**C: (sung) And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: (sung) We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**C: (sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## **Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sanctus*)**

(sung) **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**

**The whole earth is full of your glory.**

**You are my God and I will exalt you.**

**I will give you thanks, for you have become my  
salvation.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**

**The whole earth is full of your glory.**

## **Words of Institution**

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

### **O Christ, Lamb of God**

(sung) **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin on the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

*Be seated*

*Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with Pastor Ott or an elder before communing. Common and individual cup are both offered.*

**Distribution**

Hymn 38

## **Thanksgiving**

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*Stand*

### **Thank the Lord**

(sung) **Thank the Lord and sing his praise.**

**Tell ev'ryone what he has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.**

**He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy**

**with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Christ 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:** (sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**Closing Hymn:**                      *“Joy to the World”*                      Hymn 62

**Postlude**                              *Christmas Angels*                      Church Band

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**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

May God bless you as you hear his Word! If you are a guest, please sign our guest register near the church’s main entrance. We invite you to worship with us again! Restrooms are in the basement near the steps in the back of the church.

**Thank You** The pastor, teachers, and staff thank you for your cards and gifts this Christmas. Your expressions of love are a reflection of the love of Christ that lives in your hearts! Thank you!

**No Thursday Worship** There will be no worship on Thursday, December 27. Thursday worship will begin again on January 3.

**New Year’s Eve Worship** will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 31. We will focus on the certainty of God’s love and promises even as time continues to pass by. Communion will be a part of worship.

**New Year’s Day Worship** will be at 9:00 a.m. We will focus on the minor festival of the church year, The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus, and the opportunities a new year brings to us. Communion will be a part of worship.