

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**

**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, thank you for joining us!. We invite you to worship with us again! Restrooms are in the basement near the steps in the back of the church.

**Thank You** to all the instrumentalists who were able to enrich our worship this morning.

**Thank You** Pastor Ott and his family thank you for your cards and gifts this Christmas. Your expressions of love are a wonderful reflection of the love of Christ that lives in your hearts! Thank you!

**Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord**

December 25, 2013

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Christmas Day is the festival of the Incarnation: the eternal Son of God was born in time as the son of Mary so that in his flesh he might free us from the bondage of sin (Prayer of the Day). From the beginning, the solution to sin was the flesh and blood of God.*

**Preservice Music**

Band

*Christmas Chorale and March*

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*In Excelsis Deo*

**Opening Hymn:** "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" Hymn 55

*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**

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.**

**Morrison Zion  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church**

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



*Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
as we help people*

***Grow**  
in the  
**Gospel**  
and  
**Go**  
with the  
**Gospel***

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

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

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

C: (sung) **Amen.**

### 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/ELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with Pastor Ott or an elder before communing.*

### Distribution

*"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"*

Hymn 38

*"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*

Hymn 57

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## Thanksgiving

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### *Stand*

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.**

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### 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.

*Be seated*

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### The Word

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#### First Lesson:

Isaiah 52:7-10

*The return of Israel from captivity prefigured the work of the Word made flesh who redeemed mankind from sin. The prophecy pictures the watchmen of Jerusalem standing sentinel on the city walls. Suddenly they see messengers descending the mountains that surround Zion. The watchmen shout for joy because the messengers bring news of peace, goodness and rescue: Your God reigns! God is in control and is ruling for his people. He laid bare his holy arm by hiding himself in flesh in order to buy back Jerusalem—not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. God kept his promise, and all the ends of earth will see his salvation.*

<sup>7</sup> 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!”

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> 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. (NIV)

#### Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 98 (p. 53 CWS)

#### Second Scripture Lesson:

Hebrews 1:1-9

*The arrival of God in the flesh inaugurated the last age of this earth. In Jesus Christ all the promises God made were kept. In this age of promises kept, God's interaction with mankind fundamentally changed. In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. But in these latter days, God sent the One who made the universe and who sustains it by the breath of his mouth. God sent the Son who is the exact representation of God's being and the radiance of his glory. This is the One who came to speak to the people of God. This is the One who took on flesh and blood and became a companion of man—for one purpose: purification of our sins.*

<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup> 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”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup> In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> 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.” (NIV)

## Choir Anthem

*Christmastime*

*Stand*

## The Gospel:

John 1:1-18

*John's Christmas story begins in eternity within the Godhead. That the Son is eternally God and that he shared in the creation of the universe only underscores the enormity of his love for us. In a paucity of words Scripture describes the indescribable: “And the Word flesh became and tented among us.” How shocking that this had to be true! God had to become flesh and blood to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us. John's expression, “He tented among us,” recalls the tabernacle of the Exodus that moved with the people of God in the desert. God was there beneath the skins. So with Christ, God's glory could be seen as he came in grace and truth, in flesh and blood, to give us the right to be children of God.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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:**

Isaiah 52:7-10

**Promises Kept! Proclaim the Good News: God Has Kept His Promise**

**Offering** *During the offering, please sign the friendship register in your pew. Thank you!*

**Musical Offering**

*Christmas Angels*

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