

Christmas Day
Nativity of our Lord



Good News *of* Great Joy



God Became Man
Christmas Day Festival Worship

December 25, 2023
Morrison Zion Lutheran Church
9:00 a.m. Worship



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the Gospel
to 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.

If your children
need to leave worship,
please take them to
the basement. A TV
broadcasts the service
in the basement.

Today we gather
together in the
presence of God. He is
present among us in a
special way through
his Word and
Sacrament. We
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.

Good News of Great Joy! – God Became Man

Christmas Day fills us with wonder—that the Creator God could become flesh and dwell among us. This shows his great love for us. This is the Savior we need! Where we have failed, Jesus was perfect. His sacrifice means the forgiveness of sins! Let us marvel at this good news of great joy!

Preservice *played by the Morrison Zion Church Band*

A Christmas Collage
In Excelsis Deo

O Come, All Ye Faithful
The Reason is the Season

Opening Hymn *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* CW 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
thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O
vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through
ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies; Not so bright - ly
pure and ho - ly Child; Through thy grace and
sin and van - i - ty; He for us ob -
all his saints u - nite, Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.
bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



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

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.
Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

Stand

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

M: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

C: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,

M: who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
he the source, the end - ing he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Confession

M: If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,

C: we lie and do not live out the truth. (1 John 1:6)

M: If we claim to be without sin,

C: we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)

M: If we claim we have not sinned

C: we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:10)

M: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and

C: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

M: You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command:

C: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Galatians 5:13-15)

M: If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, [sexual sins], and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)

C: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:3-5)

Absolution

M: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love:

C: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)

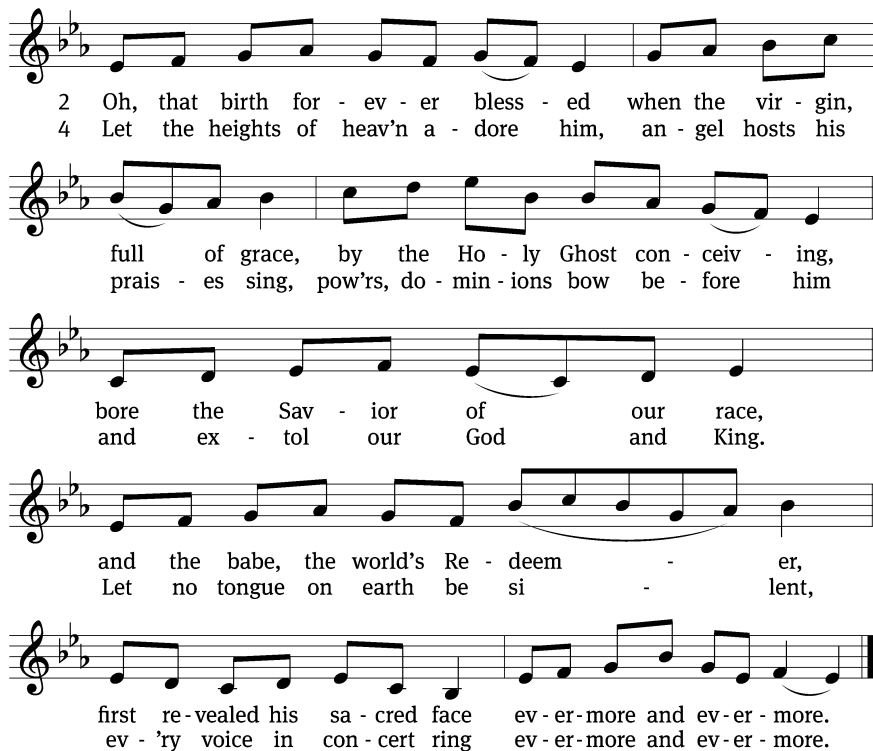
M: He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

C: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

M: For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

(2 Corinthians 5:21, 14-15)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)



2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
bore the Sav - ior of our race,
and ex - tol our God and King.
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, st. 1–4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5, alt.

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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: Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

Bethlehem was a little town. Yet, it will be known throughout history as the birthplace of the God-man.

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace. (NIV)



Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98 CW

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song, for
he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Psalm tone

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 nations.

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 jubilant 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

Refrain Tune: J. Robert Carroll. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

The Son of God was born of a woman so that he might redeem us and make us heirs of the heavenly Father.

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. (NIV)

Verse of the Day *Choir*

A Christmas Alleluia

For unto us a child is born in the town of Bethlehem
And angels singing from on high give honor and glory to Him.
Sing alleluia. Glory, glory, alleluia, praise Him! Jesus Christ is born!

For unto us a child is born; the angels give Him praise.
They shout salvation to the earth, their joyful voices raise.
Sing alleluia. Glory, glory, alleluia, praise Him! Jesus Christ is born!

For unto us a child is born, a gift of love and light.
Proclaim the news to ev’ryone. Let glory fill the night.
Sing alleluia. Glory, glory, alleluia, praise Him! Jesus Christ is born!

Unto us a child is born. Come and worship Christ the Lord.
Joyful all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies.
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
“Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
Glory, glory, alleluia!

Words by Billy D. Martin Music by Michael Barrett 1997 Malcolm Music A division of Shawnee Press

Stand

Gospel

John 1:1-18

The mystery of the incarnation—God became man; the Word became flesh.

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

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

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of

God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ (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.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ 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. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be Seated



Hymn of the Day

Angels We Have Heard on High CW 63



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855; tr. *The Crown of Jesus*, Part 2, London, 1862, alt.
Tune: GLORIA (77 77 with Refrain) *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855.

Sermon

Galatians 4:4-7

Stand

Create in Me

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be Seated

Offering

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Hart! The Herald Angels Sing

Band

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: It is good and right so to do.

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

Be Seated

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith and warns us against the dangers of not understanding what communion is, we practice close communion. WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor before communing. If you would like to learn more about communing with us in the future, please contact pastor.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly CW 45



1 Oh, re-joice, all Chris-tians, loud-ly, For our joys have
 2 See, my soul, your Sav-ior choos-es Pov-er-ty and
 3 Lord, how shall I thank you right-ly? I am saved e-
 4 Je-sus, guard and guide your mem-bers; Make us chil-dren



now be-gun; Won-drous things our God has done.
 weak-ness, too; In such love he comes to you.
 ter-nal-ly By your life and death for me.
 of your grace; Hear our prayers in ev-'ry place.



Tell a-broad his good-ness proud-ly, Who our race has
 Nei-ther crib nor cross re-fus-es, All he suf-fers
 Let me not re-gard you light-ly But on you in
 Fan-to-life faith's glow-ing em-bers; Give all Chris-tians



hon-ored so, That he lives with us be-low.
 for your good To re-deem you by his blood.
 faith de-pend, Prais-ing you, my heav'n-ly friend.
 far and near Ho-ly peace, a glad new year.

Refrain



Joy, oh, joy be-yond all glad-ness, Christ has done a-way with sad-ness!



Hence all sor-row and re-pin-ing, For the Sun of grace is shin-ing!

Text: Christian Keimann, 1607–62; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: FREUET EUCH, IHR CHRISTEN ALLE (877 877 with Refrain) Andeas Hammerschmidt, c. 1611–75, alt.

THANKSGIVING

Stand

Song of Simeon

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

M: 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: **Amen.**

Be Seated

Choir

As the shepherds who came on that first Christmas night,
we must follow the star; we must walk in its light
'til we come to the child who is sent from above
to bring us God's blessings of peace and of love.

Away in a manger a baby is born;
and the wonders of Christmas surround us once more.
We come to behold Him, asleep in the hay.
We kneel and adore Him, and humbly we pray:

"We love you, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay
close by us to guide us through each passing day.
Bless all of God's children and help us be true.
Be near us at Christmas and all the year through."
Amen.

By Don Besig and Nancy Price 1990 Harold Flammer, Inc.

Christmas Blessing

Postlude

Christmas Spectacular

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