

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas  
New Year's Eve Worship*



# Good News *of* Great Joy



**Peace on Earth**

December 31, 2023  
Morrison Zion Lutheran Church



# 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.

## 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

Great News of Great Joy: Peace on Earth

### This Sunday

On Christmas Eve a choir of angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." So, where is this peace on earth? Between nations? There are always wars going on somewhere. In our country? True eternal peace comes through Christ. Because of what Christ did as our Savior, there is no hostility between us and God, only peace and love. We have the peace of salvation in our hearts, as we turn from one year to another.

### Opening Hymn

*With the Lord Begin Your Task* CW 478



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di -  
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise and ad - o -  
3 With your Sav - ior at your side Foes need not a -  
4 If your task is thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's



rect it. For his aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus  
ra - tion. On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is  
larm you; In his prom - is - es con - fide And no  
bless - ing, Safe - ly then your course will run, Naught your



will per - fect it. Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise,  
your sal - va - tion. Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night  
ill can harm you. All your trust and hope re - pose  
soul dis - tress - ing. Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where



And, when day is end - ed, In his name then  
Je - sus will be near you, Save you from the  
In the might - y Mas - ter, Who in wis - dom  
While you here must wan - der; You at last the



close your eyes; Be to him com - mend - ed.  
temp - ter's might, With his pres - ence cheer you.  
tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.  
joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.

Text: *Morgen-und Abend-segen*, Waldenburg, 1734, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890-1950, alt.  
Tune: FANG DEIN WERK (76 76 D Trochaic) Peter Frank, 1616-75, alt.

*Stand*

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

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## CONFESSION OF SINS

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M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**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.

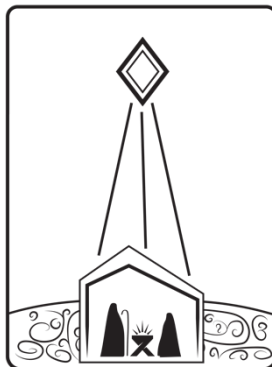
**C: Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

**M:** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



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## PRAYER AND PRAISE

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M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### Glory Be To God



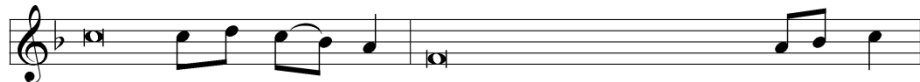
C: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**



**We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,**



**we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,**



**God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;**



**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the**



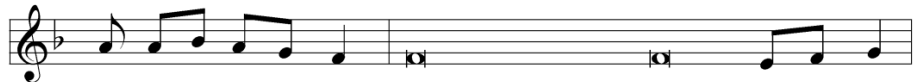
**sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the**



**sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of**



**God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;**



**you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,**



**are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.**

## Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*Be Seated*

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## THE WORD

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### First Lesson

**1 Kings 8:6-13**

King Solomon dedicates the temple, a place where the glory of the LORD would be revealed as the peace of salvation was proclaimed.

<sup>6</sup> The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. <sup>7</sup> The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles. <sup>8</sup> These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. <sup>9</sup> There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

<sup>10</sup> When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; <sup>13</sup> I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever." (NIV)

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 111

*Refrain*

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

*Psalm tone*

\*

Great are the works of the LORD;\*  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds,\*  
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;\*  
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

### *Refrain*

The works of his hands are faithful and just;\*  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

He provided redemption for his people;\*  
he ordained his covenant forever.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;\*  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**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](http://www.giamusic.com). All rights reserved.  
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## Second Lesson

**Colossians 3:12-17**

As the peace of Christ rules our hearts, we are moved to live in peace.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (NIV)

## Verse of the Day

**M:** Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15a)

*Stand*

## Gospel

**Luke 2:25-40**

God allows elderly Simeon and Anna to see their Savior with their own eyes. This fills them with peace.

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. (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

Let All Together Praise Our God CW 41



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

## Sermon

Colossians 3:12-17

*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

*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.**

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).

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## THE SACRAMENT

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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

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* CW 38



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your  
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
 5 "These are the signs which you shall mark: The swad-dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of low -  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -  
 God for all be - low, That in his king - dom, bright  
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the in -



I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
 and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share.  
 fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!  
 Then with the shepherds let us go  
 To see what God for us has done  
 In sending us his own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
 And see what in the manger lies.  
 Who is this child, so young and fair?  
 It is the Christchild lying there.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
 Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
 You came to share my misery  
 That you might share your joy with me.

9 Ah, Lord, though you created all,  
 How weak you are, so poor and small,  
 That you should choose to lay your head  
 Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair  
 And set with gold and jewels rare,  
 It would be far too poor and small  
 A cradle for the Lord of all.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff  
 You have but hay and straw so rough  
 On which as King, so rich and great,  
 To be enthroned in royal state.

- 12 And so it pleases you to see  
This simple truth revealed to me:  
That all the world's wealth, honor, might  
Are weak and worthless in your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, made clean and new,  
A quiet chamber kept for you.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradle song:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Leipzig, 1539.

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## THANKSGIVING

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*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*

## Hymn

*Children of the Heavenly Father* CW 449



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; In his  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his



in his bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird or star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he  
Lord his chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them his grace he  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In his might - y arms he bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Caroline V. Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958. © Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Tune: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA (LM Trochaic) Swedish folk tune, 19th century.

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**Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service** Appleton (WELS counseling)  
Kathleen Jasman 731-9798

**Living Hope Counseling Ministries** De Pere (WELS counseling)  
Dr. John Johnson, Director, 338-8699

## Join the 2024-2025 2 Year Bible Reading Plan hosted by Morrison Zion and Immanuel Shirley. You can join in the way most convenient for you.

1. Follow the weekly and monthly printed readings found in weekly announcements and the monthly newsletter.
2. Join the YouVersion reading plan. This app will remind you what to read each day. It also lets you listen to the sections of scripture. There is a space for you to discuss what you read.
3. Sign up to receive daily text messages of what to read, including links to listen or read to the section of scripture.
4. Join the facebook group to discuss what you read. Share thoughts or questions with others. Find resources to learn more about what you read.

Go to <https://mzluth.org/2-year-bible-reading-plan/>  
or scan the QR Code to sign up

