

Welcome  
to Zion  
Lutheran  
Church!  
Christmas  
in July  
Celebration  
Worship

July 25, 2024  
6:30pm



Zion Lutheran Church

2022 East Second Street, Superior, Wisconsin 54880

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*please stand as you are comfortable for those sections marked with an asterisk (\*)*

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### PRELUDE MUSIC

Colin Larson, piano

### GATHERING DIALOGUE

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All: The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,  
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**

### WELCOME & Explanation of Christmas in July tradition

#### PROCESSIONAL SONG:\*

#### “O Come All Ye Faithful”

**Verse 1** O come, al ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to  
Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

**Chorus** O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

**Verse 2** Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest!

**Chorus**

**Verse 3** Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory  
giv'n; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

**Chorus**

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#### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:\*

Pastor: Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's  
forgiveness, grace, and love. (*Silence is kept for reflection*)

P: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**All: Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.  
**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.  
**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

Pastor: With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” In † Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: “What Child is This?”**

**Verse 1** What Child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

**Verse 2** Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through the cross be born, for me, for you. Hail, hail the word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mary.

**Verse 3** So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; Come, peasant king, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise the song on high; the Virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Words by William Chatterton Dix; Music: Greensleeves (English Melody)  
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**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray,

**All: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song**

**WELCOMING THE GOSPEL SONG: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (Verse 1 &2)**

**Verse 1** Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

**Chorus** **Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Verse 2** Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be; which inspire your heav'nly song?

**Chorus** **Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Words & Music by James Chadwick, Edward Shippen Barnes  
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## **GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20**

Our Christmas story comes from the Gospel of Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord.

**All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL SONG: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (Verse 3)**

**Verse 3** Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore, on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

**Chorus Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

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**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & HOMILY**

Pastor Sarah Gunderson

**SONG OF THE DAY:\***

**“Away in a Manger”**

**Verse 1** Away in a manger, no crib for a bed; the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

**Verse 2** The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes; but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky; and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

**Verse 3** Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask Thee to stay, close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care; and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Words by Martin Luther, John Thomas McFarland  
Melody by James Ramsey Murray; © Public Domain

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER\*:**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,

**All: and peace to God’s people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,**

**and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament**

**that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE:\***

Leader The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All **And also with you.** (*Share Christ's peace with one another*)

## **OFFERING of GIFTS:**

*We remember again this day how the magi brought gifts to Jesus that honored him as King of Heaven and Earth. Let us present our gifts at this time to our Lord and Savior.*

*If you brought food items for the Zion food shelf, you can bring them forward. If you have gifts of money to support the Zion food shelf, you can place them in the basket.*

## **OFFERING SONG:** "How Many Kings"

**Verse 1** Follow the star to a place unexpected,  
Would you believe after all we've projected, a child in a manger,  
Lowly and small, the weakest of all, unlikeliest hero  
wrapped in his Mother's shawl, just a child,  
Is this who we've waited for, 'cause

**Chorus** **How many kings stepped down from their thrones,  
How many lords have abandoned their homes,  
How many greats have become the least for me,  
How many gods have poured out their hearts,  
To romance a world that is torn all apart,  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me...**

**Verse 2** Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior,  
All that we have whether costly or meek, because we believe,  
Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure,  
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer,  
Do you believe, is this who we've waited for...

**Chorus**

**Tag** Only one did that for me.

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## **LORD'S PRAYER:\***

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

# SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### Reading from John 1: 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 in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## CANDLE SONG:\*

### "Silent Night"

- Verse 1** Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild; sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- Verse 2** Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia. Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- Verse 3** Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with dawn of redeeming grace; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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(Candles may be extinguished.)

## SENDING BLESSING\*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG\***

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

**Chorus**    **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**Verse 1**    While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

**Chorus**

**Verse 2**    The shepherds feared and trembled, when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

**Chorus**

**Verse 3**    Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

**Chorus**

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**DISMISSAL\***

**Leader**    Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**All**        **Thanks be to God.**

**Join us for cookies, treats and**

**Christmas Bingo**

**in the fellowship hall.**