



*“The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in Thee tonight.”*

Phillips Brooks, ELW 279



**SAINT
ANDREW**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

150202 County Road NN
Wausau, WI 54401

*Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019
10:00 pm*

Welcome

Merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ child.

The liturgy this evening tells the story of the manger in lessons, responsive readings, and prayers. At the service's high point, we celebrate the gift of Immanuel—God with us—received through Holy Communion. All are welcome to partake in this gift of renewal, forgiveness and life.

An array of candles exemplify the Christ as "light of the world" (John 8:12), as the light is gradually spread during the service from the Advent Wreath to candles throughout the church, may your heart also be illumined to witness to the beauty and awe of this holy night.

*"Drop down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.
Let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation." Isaiah 45:8*

Assisting with Worship

Rev. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*

Jamie VanEyke, *Soloist*

Joel Freiberg, *Pianist*

Jon Seamon, *Trumpet*

Johnson Team, *Ushers*

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Prelude

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Beloved in Christ, we are gathered together this night to prepare our hearts for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ; to reflect upon the mystery of that Incarnation by which we are redeemed, and to receive with joy the message of our salvation.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a human mother. Grant that we may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen

Special Music

Mary

First Reading

Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words, and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. " Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Lord himself will give you a sign.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.

And they shall name him Emmanuel,

Which means, God is with us.

Isaiah 7:14

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you chose Mary to be the mother of your Son, making known your gracious regard for the poor and lowly. Grant us grace to receive your Word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

**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!**

**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 borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**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!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Joseph

Second Reading

Matthew 1:18-21

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.

And a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

The spirit of wisdom and understanding.

The spirit of counsel and might.

The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:1-2

Let us pray.

O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the partner of his mother, Mary: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

**O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

The Star

Third Reading

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-10

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Arise, shine, for your light has come.
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
And thick darkness the peoples.

But the Lord will arise upon you,
And his glory will appear over you.

Isaiah 60:1-2

Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Hymn

The First Noel

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

Text: English traditional

Shepherds and Angels

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:8-14

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. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see -- I am bringing you good news of a 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." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings.

Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings.

Lift it up, do not fear.

Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Isaiah 10:9

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the bondage of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

**Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!**

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

The Birth of Christ

Fifth Reading

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from the 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. 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. 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Be with us this night, revealing to us signs of your saving grace and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen

Special Music

Meditation

Hymn

Away in a Manger

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

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

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

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Prayers of Intercession

Peace

Offering

Special Music

Meal

Offering Prayer

Let us pray,

God with us, the world in which we live is filled with despair, loneliness, and darkness. We bring these gifts that they might help to create a new and different world. May they nurture what has already begun and be brought to completion at the day of your return.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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.

Distribution of Communion

This is Christ's table - all are welcome to receive Holy Communion which is assurance of forgiveness and the presence of Immanuel, God with us. Distribution is by intinction, taking a piece of bread, dip it in the wine and receive both elements at once. There is a gluten free/grape juice option available near the font.

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

Spreading the Light of Christ

As the piano begins to play "Silent Night," ushers distribute light throughout the congregation. Pass the light among you from one candle to the next as a reminder that the Light of Christ comes to you. Please dip the UNLIT candle.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at your birth, Jesus Lord at your birth.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Prayer

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

Individual candles are carefully extinguished.

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the light! **Thanks be to God!**



*The Poinsettias
are given to the
glory of God...*

And in loving memory of...

Robert and Alice Allen by Dewey and Cheryl Allen;
Clayton and Mary Bailey and Audrey and Bob McFaul by Sue and Pat McFaul;
Their mothers, Marianne Bell and Betty Skare, Denise's sister, Judi Bell and Denise's father, Ronald Bell by Don and Denise Skare;
Their loved ones in heaven by Phil and Helen Bickley;
John Bindl and Robert Clairmore families by Larry and Annette Bindl;
Betty Birchler by Nathan and Stephanie Birchler;
Barb Brace by Al Brace;
Her parents and beloved husband, Pat by Jan Bresnahan;
Ron's dad, Joe Dotseth and Betty's son, Bradley Pertzborn by Ron and Betty Dotseth;
Their grandson, Logan by Mike and Diane Fochs;
Arnold and Ann Fust, Irene Fust, Carl and Leona Wiese, Kara (Irma) Wiese, Eric Kohel, Bert R. Pieper III, and Daniel Tapp, by Tim, Tammy, Katelynn, Abby, Carlie and Tyler Schilling;
Roy and Kathryn Gjertson, and Stephen Vorwerk by Doug and Alicia Gjertson;
Barb and Vic Guenther by Greg and Kathy Guenther;
John Howard by Joanne Howard;
Susan Jeffers by the Doering Family;
Judith Laffin by Kristine Kolpacki;
Jerry Laine by Mary Ellen Laine;
Grandpa and Grandma Larson by Gene and Marcia Jacobson;
Grandpa John, Grandma Meredith and Grandpa Ken by Dick and Lynn Lawson Family;
Ewald and Leona Lehrmann, James Conant and Ed Wodalski by Karen Lehrmann;
Her parents, Myrtle and Merlin Lueck and her brother, Gary Lueck by Bonnie Schmidt;

Dennis and Dorothy Luer and Earl and Evelyn Nelson by Ken and Jennifer Luer;

Lori and Jacob by Ron and Lil Mathsen;
Jim and Betty Miner by Cythia Peterson;
Clarence and LaVora Rasmussen, and David Nordgren by Dan and Carrie Nordgren;
Velma Ostrander and Jon and Roger Wiebe by the Wiebe Family;
Robert Price by Bonnie Price;
Her sister, Tammy by Debi and Bob Prueher;
Dan Quiett by Tim and Sylvia Lambrecht;
Dolores Riege by Gina, Eric and Olivia Sorensen;
Roeder-Morse by Karen Morse;
Ripley Rose by Olivia Sorensen;
Everett E. Schmidt, Sr. by Billie Schmidt.

And in honor of...

Grandbabies;
Baby Jesus by Phil and Helen Bickley;
Jacob, Porter, Hazel and Elena by Tom and Barb Geiger;
Babs Hints by Jill and Duane Meyer;
Her sons, by Lynn Miller;
Her mom, Barb Kinney, and granddaughter, Alexis by Joy Mitchell;
Marilyn Russo and Barbara Janowiak by Tom Russo.

And in thanksgiving of...

Brooke, Katie, Zach, Ashley and Adam by Mike and Diane Fochs;
Their children and family by Sean and Sheila McCarthy;
Our Savior's birth by David and Susan Paisar;
Family and friends by Gale and Dan Wolff.

And in recognition of...

Their 40th wedding anniversary by Gary and Ruth Koch.

A special thank you to the Koenig family for donating the Christmas trees in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall in memory of parents, Ervin & Arvella.