



Christmas Day 9:30am

December 25, 2021



ROCK OF AGES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ancient Faith for Today's World

Welcome! May you be filled with peace and joy from Jesus who lived, died, and rose again to be your Savior. He is forever our living Rock of Ages.

Our Mission is to share the rock-solid hope of Jesus with today's world through timeless truths found in the Holy Scriptures.

Our Message centers around the forgiveness, freedom, and fellowship we have in Jesus.

Membership: We are part of a church family and together we reach out with the amazing gospel message. We'd love to have you join with us in our mission!

Children's activity bags, quiet toys, and a changing table are available from the nursery in entry area.

Large Print service folders and **hearing assistance** devices are available.

Restrooms are located at the far ends of the entry area.

We Support the world-wide gospel ministry of the WELS. We'd love to share more with you. Contact our pastor today. You can also visit wels.net





Christmas Song Service

A service of praise to God for fulfilling his promises with the incarnation of Jesus his Son.

Hymn

Ring the Bells

Sung by 4 For Christ

Gathering Rite

Selected Scripture readings with hymn 354

(Isaiah 9) Prophecy of the Son of God Incarnate

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

♪ **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.**

(Isaiah 49) The Son of God comes in the flesh to save us all

Listen to me, you coastlands. Pay attention, you faraway peoples! The LORD called me from the womb. When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.

**The LORD said: I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that
my salvation will be known to the end of the earth.**

This is what the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, its Holy One, says to the one deeply despised, to the one who is detested by the nation, to the servant of rulers.

Kings will see and stand up. Officials will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, because of the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.

Shout for joy, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth.

Let mountains burst forth with shouts of joy,

because the LORD is comforting his people, and he is showing mercy to his afflicted ones.

So all flesh will know that I am the LORD, your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

**♪ God from true God, and
Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.**

**Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

(Isaiah 59-60) The Son brings the light of forgiveness for sinners

We hope for light, but look, there is only darkness.

We hope for bright light, but we walk around in the darkest gloom.

As for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.

Those deeds are rebellion and treachery against the LORD.

The LORD looked and saw that there was no one. He was appalled that there was no one who could intervene.

So his own arm worked salvation for him.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples,

but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

♪ **Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, All glory in the highest.**

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

(Luke 2)

Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.

♪ **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.**

**Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. *(Galatians 4)*

For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. *(John 3)*

He was revealed in flesh,
was justified in spirit,
was seen by messengers
**He was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world,
was taken up in glory.** (1 Timothy 3)

♪ **Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Reading

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human flesh. To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.

Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory." The LORD said, "I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy." ²⁰He said, "You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live."

²¹The LORD also said, "Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. ²²It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen."

⁵The LORD came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed by in front of him and


proclaimed: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, ⁷maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children's children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation."

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98

Congregation sings the refrain and reads boldface lines

Refrain



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

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made his salvation known.

He has revealed his righteousness to the eyes of the nations.
He has remembered his mercy and his faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Break out in joyful song! Make music!
Make music to the LORD with the lyre and the sound of music.

♪ **Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.**

With trumpets and the sound of the ram's horn
shout for joy before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and everything that fills it, the world, and all who live in it.
**Let the rivers clap their hands. Let the mountains sing for joy together
before the LORD,**

for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with fairness.

♪ **Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-32

If the Father was willing to give us his only Son, clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.

What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

Hymn

Love Has Come

Christian Worship 364

Hymn numbers today are for the blue hymnal

Verse of the Day

Galatians 4:4,5

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law.

Hymn

Away in A Manger

Christian Worship 341

Gospel

John 1:1-18

In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen. The God who cannot be known is known.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him.

⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him.

¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.' " ¹⁶For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

Hymn of the Day

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Christian Worship 358 :1-3

Sermon

John 1:1-18

What Child Is This? God In the Flesh

Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Christian Worship 358:4-5

Confession of Faith

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Offerings Gathered

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Our offerings go to support the gospel ministry of our congregation and our national church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Today you may place your offering on the table by the entryway as you enter or exit.

Prayer of the Church

On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the

shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

(sung to same tune as "Away in a Manger")

♪ **Our Father in heaven all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The Bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, oh help us; be near.
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom, o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty — the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit — be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

Christian Worship 346

Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel, pastor
Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ;

Acknowledgments

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