

Dear Members of Christ Ev. Lutheran Church:

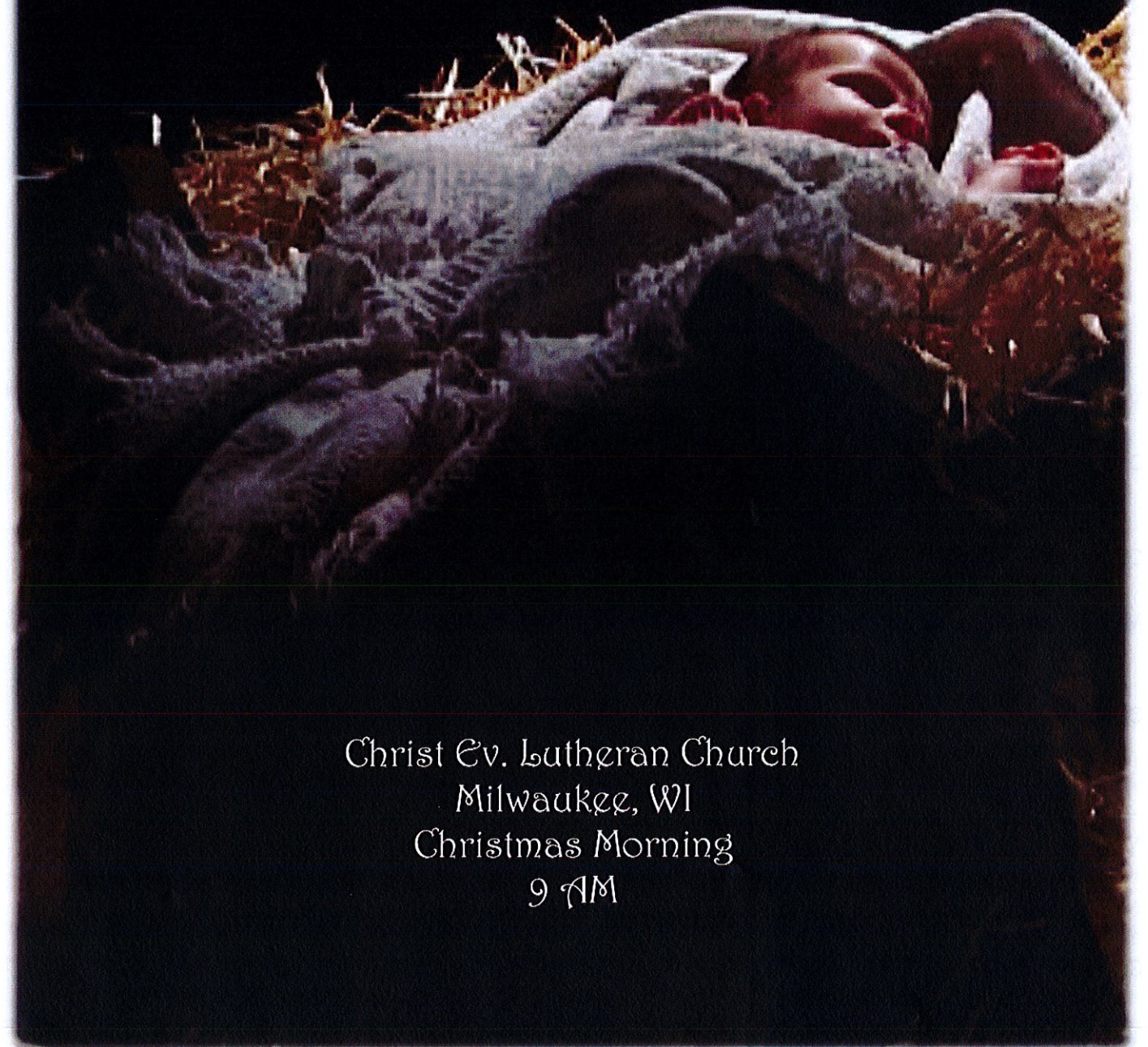
This season of the year offers the opportunity for a pastor to bear his heart to the people he serves in thanks to God for the opportunity to serve, and this year is no different. It truly is to me a labor of love and a blessed privilege to be able to humbly stand in the place of such amazing angels and proclaim to you that your heart has been healed and your tearing eyes have been dried because born to us is the Savior of the Nations in Bethlehem. For all of you, my family and I give thanks to our gracious God for your kindnesses and gifts of love that we are humbled and honored to receive from you as you offer them in faith and in joy of your Newborn Savior. From our home to yours, we wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas!

With Love in Christ,
-Pastor Chad, Julia, Carlos, Juliette and Opal Walta-



One in Christ. One at Christ.
Uno en Cristo.

We Have Seen His Glory.



Christ Ev. Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI
Christmas Morning
9 AM

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY!

Welcome to all of you as we celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Incarnation is a fancy word that means, "to take flesh." What a great and mighty wonder that God with whom there is no limit, took the limitations of our human flesh and blood to live among us for the purpose of rescuing us and bringing us to the salvation he has promised! We are overjoyed here at Christ Ev. Lutheran Church on the Southside of Milwaukee, WI, to share this, the glory of Christ's birth with you today! Merry Christmas!
-Pastor Chad Walta-

OPENING HYMN: 61, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." v. 1-2

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Refrain

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Through the announcement of God's Word, we too have come to behold the Christ Child in the manger. Let us acknowledge the reason for his humble birth as by examining ourselves and confessing our sins to him and to each other.

C: **Humble Christ Child, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child, but trusting in you, Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

M: 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 and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to you; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Psalm 98: 1-3) Go in peace, your sins are forgiven.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

OFFERING

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BE SEATED

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.



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CLOSING HYMN: 67, "What Child is This?" v. 3

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!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 67, "What Child is This?" v. 1-2

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!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD
Exodus 33: 18-23; 34: 5-7, "Now You May See My Glory."

STAND

THE ATHANASIAN CREED, PART 2: The Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

M: It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith:

C: **We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.**

M: He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,

C: **equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;**

M: and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,

C: **one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;**

M: one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

C: **for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.**

M: He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

C: **He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,**

M: and from there will come to judge the living and the dead. At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire. This is the true Christian faith.

C: **Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.**

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

HYMN: 61, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." v. 3

3 Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of your 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.



BE SEATED

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 33: 18-23; 34: 5-7

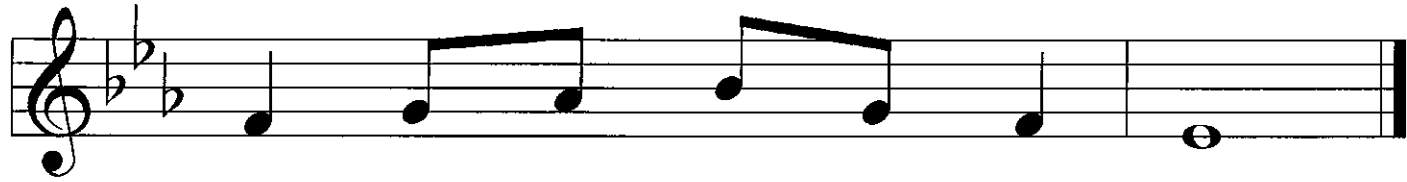
18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." 19 And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." 21 Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." 5 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

PSALM OF THE DAY: 98, p. 103 CW (found on the next page, page 4 of your service folder)

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

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 1: 1-9

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? 6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire." 8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia. (Galatians 4: 4,5a)

ANTHEM: "The Snow Lay on the Ground."

STAND

GOSPEL: John 1: 1-18

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.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE

SEATED