

Family Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th 2025 5:00pm

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people *Luke 1:68*”

OPENING CAROL

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let every 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.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

INVOCATION

Pastor: We gather this evening in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: *(John 1:1-4)*

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 were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made him known.

People: **God is good!**

Pastor: All the time!

People: **All the time.**

Pastor: God is good!
(Romans 3:19-26)

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

People: **But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation or sacrifice & intercession by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show God's righteousness at the present time, so that God might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Thank you Jesus.**

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Forgive me for my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)

Pastor: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and by His authority, I announce God's grace to all of you, and the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and give His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

People: **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You. *Psalm 89:14*

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. *John 1:14*

Let us pray:

People: **Living Word, Your kingdom is built on righteousness, justice, faithfulness, and steadfast love. Thank You for becoming flesh and living among us. You lived and spoke truth and grace. I want to be like You, but I stumble and fall. Thank You for the gifts of forgiveness and salvation. Lead me on the path to Your kingdom's glory. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Psalm

Psalm 147:1-11

¹ Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. ² The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. ³ He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ⁴ He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. ⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. ⁶ The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground. ⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre! ⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. ⁹ He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry. ¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, ¹¹ but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

New Testament Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly

lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us good news.

People: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.**

(Psalm 119:105, John 6:68)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON SONG

He Shall Reign Forevermore

In the bleak midwinter all creation groans
And for a world in darkness frozen like a stone
Light is breaking in a stable for a throne
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Unto us a Child is born - The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

If I were a wiseman I would travel far
If I were a shepherd I would do my part
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Unto us a Child is born - The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Here within a manger lies the One Who made the starry skies
This Baby born for sacrifice Christ, The Messiah

Into our hopes, into our fears - The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years - Christ, The Messiah
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Unto us a Child is born - The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

SERMON

Pr Farber

Jesus Is The Reason

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with these words...

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: **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**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People: **Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, the Mighty One has done great things for us and holy is His Name.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: **our service begins!**

CLOSING CAROL

Silent Night

**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,
Heavenly 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 Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

THE PRESENCE OF ALL who have come to celebrate Christmas adds to the joy of worshipping the Lord on this glorious night. Welcome, friends! May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all...now and always. Visitors, check the shelf outside the church office for our newsletter & brochure about our church.

A NEW LOCAL MINISTRY will be the recipient of our Mission of the Month gifts for December. Damascus Road Project, a nearly 100% specially trained volunteer run 501(c)3 non-profit organization is dedicated to fighting the evil of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. See the article in the December newsletter for more information.

THE 2026 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway. You may sign up for one or two vases. The cost per vase is \$22.50 per vase or \$45.00 for both vases.

THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office and also on the desk in the library. *Please remember: We no longer have a way to find out if you have moved. Call the church office with new addresses and/or phone numbers.*

WORSHIP AT ZION

Christmas Eve	7:00pm	Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Worship
Christmas Day	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship
Saturday (27 Dec)	<u>NO</u>	Chapel Service
Sunday (28 Dec)	8:00am	Worship
	9:30am	G.I.F.T. Worship
	11:30am	Swahili-English Worship

GIFTS GIVEN TO BLESS OUR FOOD PROGRAM are given by:

In thankfulness for God's love and everlasting provision by the Burgdorf family
In memory of Harry and Eutha Bremer from the family
In memory of loved ones gone before me. Shalom, from Deborah A Nelson
In memory of the Zarling family that are no longer with us
In memory of Gary Ellner from Carol and family

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Charter Member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
400 N Sawyer Street Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902 920-235-4430
www.zionoshkosh.com zionlutheran@ntd.net

