



Fairview

Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Milwaukee, WI 53213

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FairviewLutheran.com
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Christmas Day

December 25, 2018

Reverend Aaron Robinson, pastor
Greg Naumann, staff minister
Sue Pajunen, organist

Our Order of Worship

About our Worship Service The liturgy for this worship service is specially designed for this morning.

Difficulty Hearing? Please ask an usher for a personal Telex Sound Enhancement receiver.

Difficulty Reading? Please ask an usher for a large print worship folder.

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M: Minister; **W:** Worshipers

Ring of the Bell

Opening Hymn: [56] Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Worshippers stand.

M: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

W: Oh come, let us adore him!

M: O Lord, the ruler of the ages eternal, you are without beginning or end:

W: Yet you chose to be born an infant in time.

M: O Lord, the invisible, you are the One no one has seen or can see:

W: Yet you assume the face of the son of Mary.

M: O Lord, the all-powerful, you hold the mountains in the palm of your hand:

W: Yet you let yourself be wrapped in the blankets of an infant.

M: O Lord, the universal provider, you feed every creature:

W: Yet you chose to hunger for the milk of your mother.

M: O Lord, the infinite, heaven and earth cannot contain you:

W: Yet you rest in the arms of Mary.

M: O Lord, the perfect joy, you are the source of happiness for heaven and earth:

W: Yet you cry like a little child.

M: O Lord, the eternal Word, you are the light of all created intelligence:

W: Yet you are laid in a manger and cannot even speak.

M: O Lord, we confess that we do not deserve the magnificence of your love for we have not loved one another as you desire. We daily sin much in all that we say, think, and do.

W: Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for the sake of your great love. Deliver and restore us that we may find true peace.

M: You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. I say to you, therefore, what Christ himself says: Your sins are forgiven.

W: Thanks be to God!

M: Let us pray. 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.

W: Amen.

Worshiper sit.

First Lesson: Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-7

M: Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

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. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 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. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." ... Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. 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, 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 fathers to the third and fourth generation."

Psalm 98

CW pg. 102

Second Lesson: Hebrews 1:6-9

M: And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions anointing you with the oil of joy."

Verse of the Day:

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

Worshippers stand.

Gospel: John 1:1-14

M: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the gospel of our Lord

W: Thanks be to God!

Worshippers sit.

Hymn of the Day: [62] Joy to the World

Message

THEME: The Perfect Came to the Imperfect to Make Us Perfect

TEXT: Isaiah 53:1-6

Worshippers stand.

Confession of Faith: from the Athanasian Creed

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

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

And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person.

For just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one in Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead. At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies.

This is the true Christian faith.

Worshippers sit.

Gathering of Offerings for the Lord

M: On this Christmas Day, we give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for sending his one and only Son to share our humanity, to carry our guilt, and to become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to every home. CW 38, vs. 1
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing.

M: On this Christmas Day, we gather to be nourished with the Word through which the Holy Spirit gives us strength to overcome Satan's power and pride.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled CW 38, vs. 13
Within my heart made clean and new, A quiet chamber kept for you.

M: On this Christmas Day, we lift our hearts to the Lord who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in sending his Son at the appointed time to fulfill the eternal plan of salvation by dying for us and has returned to reign over all things until he comes again in glory on the Last Day.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies, CW 38, vs. 7
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christchild lying there.

M: On this Christmas Day, we celebrate Jesus' coming in Bethlehem as he still comes to his people today.

To you this night is born a child, Of Mary, chosen virgin mild; CW 38, vs. 2
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest! CW 38, vs. 8
You came to share my misery That you might share your joy with me.

Ah, Lord, though you created all, How weak you are, so poor and small, CW 38, vs. 9
That you should choose to lay your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!

M: On this Christmas Day, and every day as we have opportunity, let us do good for all people, including those who are less fortunate than we. Let us look to the love and compassion of our Savior Jesus as the perfect example for us to follow as we live our lives out of thanks and praise for his sacrifice for our sins.

How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go CW 38, vs. 6
To see what God for us has done In sending us his own dear Son.

He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below, CW 38, vs. 4
That in his kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us his glory share.

And so it pleases you to see This simple truth revealed to me: CW 38, vs. 12
That all the world's wealth, honor, might Are weak and worthless in your sight.

M: On this Christmas Day, having been fed by the Word, we remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We remember remember the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod who go to places we can't with the blessed message of the Christ child.

My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep. CW 38, vs. 14
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song.

This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your sad and bitter cry. CW 38, vs. 3
He will himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

M: As we go forward from this Christmas Day, let us rededicate ourselves to our Savior's service in our personal and congregational life. Let us carry out our ministry as God's people with joy.

Glory to God in highest heav'n Who unto us his Son has given! CW 38, vs. 15
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Worshippers stand.

M: On this Christmas Day, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ for all things by joining in the prayer he taught us.

Worshippers stand.

Lord's Prayer:

All: 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.

The Sending Blessing

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; the LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

W: Amen.

Worshippers sit.

Closing Hymn: [61] Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Silent Prayers and Announcements.

New Year's Eve Worship Service: December 31st

6:30 p.m.

This service of thanksgiving for the blessings of another year will include the celebration of Lord's Supper. The service will also include a *Service of Remembrance* as we celebrate the heavenly victory Fairview members who died during the year now enjoy.

The Staff of Fairview Lutheran Church prays that God will bless you and your loved ones through the coming year. The staff gratefully thanks you for your kind Christmas greetings and gifts.

Holiday Poinsettia Plants that were ordered may be picked up at the altar after the worship service this morning. We thank all those who beautified the altar with these plants. Thanks to Marla Koepke for coordinating the order and arranging the plants.

The Church Decorations were beautifully done by many volunteers. We appreciate their efforts and thank Marla Koepke, Denise Berger, and Karen Hernandez for organizing the work.

We Welcome Guests to join us as we worship the Savior at Christmastime and any time. Please return to worship with us again.



