



Christmas Day

Welcome to Gloria Dei!

The name *Gloria Dei* is a Latin phrase meaning *God's glory*. We pray that here you will find his glory and love chiefly revealed in our Savior Jesus. May your time in worship be edifying and enable you to focus on Jesus as the solution to your sin and as the certainty of eternal life in heaven.

Should you need a **restroom** during the service, you will find them in the Fellowship Hall directly beneath the sanctuary. Exit the sanctuary by the main doors, turn right and head down the stairs, turn right at the bottom of the stairs and enter the first door.

If you need anything during the service, please speak to one of the ushers.

To Those Visiting with Children

The members of Gloria Dei believe that families should be able to worship together. It is clear that some amount of noise will come with children being in worship. Any noise children make in worship is the sound of families doing what God has told them to do: bringing their children to sit at Jesus' feet. Should your family need a few moments away from the sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall located directly beneath the sanctuary is open and equipped with a closed circuit TV of the service.

The Theme of Today’s Worship

How can an omnipresent God be held in his mother’s arms? How can an all-powerful God be too weak to walk? This is the mystery of the incarnation—that God took on human flesh. We cannot understand how it can be so. But the Spirit enables us to grasp that this incomprehensible truth is very good news. This is the Savior we need! As true man, he was born under God’s law, all the commandments that we have broken. Where we have failed, Jesus was perfect. As true God, when he laid down his perfect life, it was a sacrifice valuable enough to pay for the sins of the world, so that we might be adopted as God’s children.

Christmas Day fills us with wonder—that the Creator God could become flesh and dwell among us and that, in his great love for us, he would do such a thing. Let us marvel at this good news of great joy!

Serving Today

Presiding Minister & PreacherPastor Timothy Shrimpton
AccompanistKathy Lee
UsherJasen Higgins

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Christmas Morning Worship

Opening Hymn

363 *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-1874, alt.; Latin and German, 14th cent. | Tune: German, 14th cent., alt. | Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Responsive Verses for Christmas Day

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;

Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.

Psalm 95:1

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Set this glory of yours above the heavens.

Psalm 8:1

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

To him who alone does great wonders—

To him who by his understanding made the heavens—

To him who spread out the earth on the waters—

To him who made the great lights—

the sun to rule by day, the moon and stars to rule by night.

Psalm 136:3-9

Great is our Lord and mighty in power.

To his understanding there is no limit.

Psalm 147:5

No, it is your guilt that has separated you from your God,

and your sins have hidden God's face from you,

so that he does not hear.

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

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

We hope for salvation, but it is far from us.

Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you,

and our sins testify against us.

Our rebellious deeds are with us,

and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.

Isaiah 59:2, 9, 11-12

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in mercy.

He will not always accuse.

He will not keep his anger forever.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve.

He does not repay us according to our guilty deeds.

Psalm 103:8-10

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

the name of the LORD is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3

Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
who will reign wisely as king
and establish justice and righteousness on earth.

In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will dwell securely.
This is his name by which he will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Matthew 3:3

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

Luke 2:10-11

Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from now to eternity. Amen!

Psalms 113:2

Hymn

356 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3 “Fear not,” then said the an - gel, “let noth - ing you af - fright;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ, our Sav - ior, was born on Christ - mas Day
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same,
this day is born a Sav - ior, the true and ra - diant light,
and in true love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might.”
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas is filled with heav'n - ly grace.



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



Text: English, 18th cent.
Tune: English
Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Be seated

First Devotion

Micah 5:2–5a

Bethlehem was a little town. Yet, it will be known throughout history as the birthplace of the God-man.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.
³Therefore the LORD will give them up,
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

353 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt. | Tune: George F. Handel, adapt. | Text and tune: Public domain

Second Devotion

Galatians 4:4-7

The Son of God was born of a woman so that he might redeem us and make us heirs of the heavenly Father.

But 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, ⁵in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “*Abba, Father!*” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

358 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
bore the Sav - ior of our race,
prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
and ex - tol our God and King.
and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.
 Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Third Devotion

John 1:1-18

The mystery of the incarnation—God became man; the Word became flesh.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Selections from the Athanasian Creed*

**It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe
that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.**

Now this is the true Christian faith:

**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 Christ.**

* The Athanasian Creed was written to defend the teaching of Jesus being both true God and true Man and the nature of the Triune God as revealed in Scripture. By faith, we confess these scriptural truths.

**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.**

This is the true Christian faith.

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

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering

The members of Gloria Dei give their offerings out of thanks to God for his unending love. These offerings are used to support our work locally and around the world. Our guests may give, but should not feel compelled to do so. If you wish to give a gift electronically, please visit www.gdluth.org/giving or scan the code to the right.



If you are a guest with us today, please fill out the "Connection Card" in the racks at the end of each pew and leave the card with an usher, in the offering plate, or with the pastor.

As the offering plates are brought forward, please stand for prayer.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for loving us. Thank you, Lord, for sharing our humanity. Thank you, Lord, for coming as the lowly child in Bethlehem's manger to rescue us who were brought impossibly low by sin. Thank you, Lord, for being with us yet today as the King of kings, Lord of lords, Mighty God, and the Prince of Peace. Thank you for your free and full forgiveness. Thank you, dear Jesus.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing*

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

346 Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



* The closing blessing of the service follows the pattern of the blessing that God gave to his Old Testament people in **Numbers 6:22-27**.

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for 'in ex-cel-sis De-o; glo-ri-a'. The second staff continues the melody for 'in ex-cel-sis De-o.' The lyrics are written below the notes.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French | Tune: French | Text and tune: Public domain

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.
JOHN 1:14

The graphic features a dark blue background with white stars and a large yellow starburst. The text is in a stylized, white, serif font. At the bottom, there are two figures made of paper scraps, one yellow and one red, with Greek text on them.

Calendar & Announcements

Monday

Christmas Day Worship10:30 am

Next Sunday

New Year's Eve Worship10:30 am

Coffee Hour11:30 am

No Evening New Year's Eve Worship

No Adult Bible Class, Sunday School or Catechism Class (all resume on January 7)



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*Gloria Dei is a member congregation of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).
www.wels.net*

