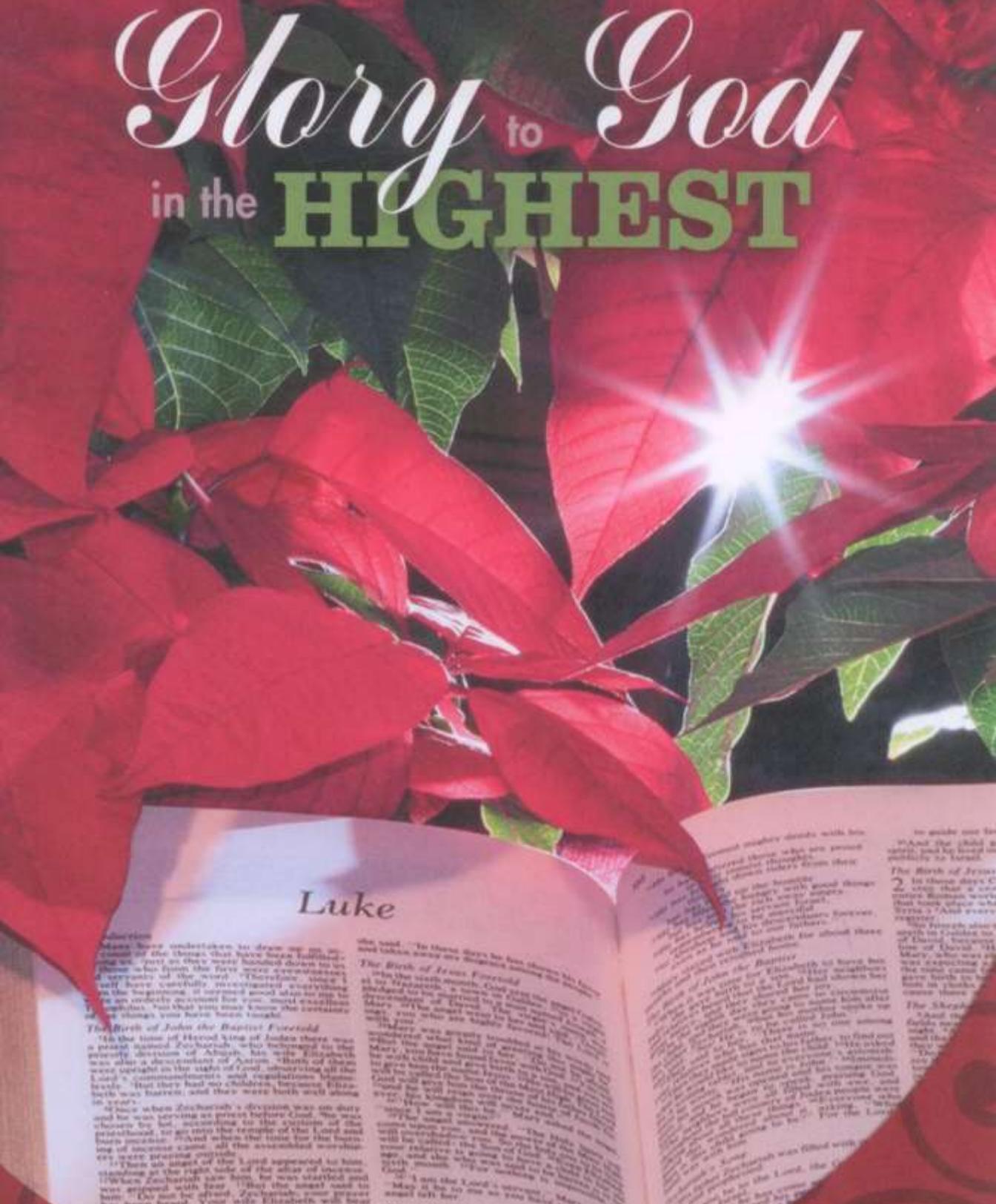


Glory to God in the HIGHEST



Luke

Introduction

Many are mistaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us. These things from the first were accomplished accurately of the words. Therefore, since I will have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to do an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of all things you have been taught.

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

In the time of Herod king of Judaea there was a priest named Zachariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abiathar, his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the ways of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well along in years.

Once when Zachariah's division was on duty and he was serving at priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. Now when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zachariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zachariah, because your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth your wife will bear you a son, and you will be called John."

He said: "In these days I am an old man, and how could I have a child? Since I am a priest, I have abstained from women since my marriage."

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

At the birth of John, Elizabeth said to her husband: "Why are you so sad? For I have seen the angel of the Lord, and he has said to me: 'Your wife will bear you a son, and you will be called John.'"

He said: "I am a priest, and I have abstained from women since my marriage. How could I have a child? And how could I be called John?"

Then the angel said to him: "I am Gabriel, and I stand in the presence of God. I have been sent to speak to you and to announce good news to you. And now, since you are old, and your wife is advanced in years, it will be called Jesus. For he will be called the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit will come upon him, and he will be called the Son of the Most High. And you will rejoice, and many will be glad with you, because he will be born to you at this time."

Then Zachariah said to the angel: "How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

And the angel said to him: "I am Gabriel, and I stand in the presence of God. I have been sent to speak to you and to announce good news to you. And now, since you are old, and your wife is advanced in years, it will be called Jesus. For he will be called the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit will come upon him, and he will be called the Son of the Most High. And you will rejoice, and many will be glad with you, because he will be born to you at this time."

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Welcome! We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as “a joyful dialogue with God.” God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this “joyful dialogue” today!

Restrooms – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

Parent’s Room – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

Assistance Getting Around – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

Offering Message – An offering will be gathered in the service today. These offerings support the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and also the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give, but certainly may if you wish.

**Welcome to all our visitors and
members!
Merry Christmas!**

Lord of Love Lutheran Church
Christmas Day Worship

December 25, 2025

OPENING HYMN

CW 80: Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—
beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor - ship,
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, abr., alt.
Tune: REGENT SQUARE (87 87 87) Henry T. Smart, 1813-79.

M: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

C: his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

M: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

C: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;

M: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;

M: make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

C: with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

M: Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

M: let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Christ came that we might be reconciled to God through him. Let us, therefore, confess our sins and hear again the good news of sins forgiven.

M and C: (CW 27:1-2, spoken)

O Jesus, Lamb of God, you are

My comfort and my guiding star;

I come, a sinner, trustingly

And bring my many sins with me.

**O Lord, my sin indeed is great;
I groan beneath the dreadful weight.
Be merciful to me, I pray;
Take guilt and punishment away.**

(Moment of silent prayer to confess specific sin and guilt that may especially be troubling and peace-robbing)

M: (CW 53:3-4, spoken)

Oh, then, rejoice that through his Son
God is with sinners now at one;
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,
Your brother is th'eternal God.

What harm can sin and death then do?
The true God now abides with you.
Let hell and Satan storm and rave,
Christ is your brother – you are safe.

RESPONSE

CW 63: Angels We Have Heard on High



Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
 strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
 an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo



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

Text: *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855; tr. *The Crown of Jesus*, Part 2, London, 1862, alt.

Tune: GLORIA (77 77 with Refrain) *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855.

PRAYER OF THE DAY FOR THE FESTIVAL

M: 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.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE FESTIVAL

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

*⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God is king!"*

*⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.
Together they shout for joy,
because with both eyes they will see it
when the LORD returns to Zion.*

*⁹ Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
because the LORD is comforting his people.
He is redeeming Jerusalem.*

*¹⁰ The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.*

HYMN

CW 58: See in Yonder Manger Low



1 See in yon-der man-ger low, Born for us on earth be-low,
 2 Lo, with-in a sta-ble lies He who built the star-ry skies,
 3 Sa-cred In-fant, all di-vine, What a ten-der love was thine,
 4 Teach, oh, teach us, ho-ly Child, By thy face so meek and mild,



See— the gen-tle Lamb ap-pears, Prom-ised from e-ter-nal years.
 He who, throned in height sub-lime, Sits a-mid the cher-u-bim.
 Thus to come from high-est bliss Down to such a world as this.
 Teach us to re-sem-ble thee In thy sweet hu-mil-i-ty.

Refrain

Hail the ev-er bless-ed morn; Hail re-demp-tion's hap-py dawn;



Sing through all Je-ru-sa-lem, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: HUMILITY (77 77 with Refrain) John Gross, 1800–80.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. ²In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say: "You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?" And again: "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son." ⁶And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said: "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷About the angels he says: "He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire." ⁸But about the Son he says:

*God, your throne is forever and ever,
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.
⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy
beyond your companions.*



HYMN

CW 57: Go, Tell It on the Mountain



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born.



1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing O'er si - lent
 2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a -
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble



flocks by night, Be - hold, through - out the
 above the earth; Rang out the an - gel
 Christ was born; And God sent us sal -



heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African-American spiritual, c. 19th century, refrain; John W. Work, 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.
 Tune: GO, TELL IT (78 76 76 76) African-American spiritual, c. 19th century, alt.

1 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.



HYMN

CW 68: Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text: *Little Children's Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, st. 1-2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3.
 Tune: CRADLE SONG (11 11 11 11) William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921.

MEDITATION ON ISAIAH 52:10

*The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.*

THE MANGER IS GOD ROLLING UP HIS SLEEVES

CONFESSION OF FAITH

excerpt from the Athanasian Creed

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. 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 he will come to judge the living and the dead.

GATHERING OF THE THANK OFFERING

During the gathering of the offering, please sign and pass the Friendship Register. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who celebrate the incarnation, that the knowledge that their God reigns would cause them to lift up their voices and sing for joy, now and throughout the Church Year, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who publish peace and bring good news of happiness in Christ, that they would be kept faithful to declare his reign; and for all missionaries at home and abroad, that all the ends of the earth may see his salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For confidence to tell the joyful message of our Savior, just as Mary, Joseph and common shepherds first believed and proclaimed his incarnation, that the Holy Spirit may work the miracle of faith as he wills, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who administer and judge our laws in this land and for its citizens, that authority would be rightly honored and that we would be preserved from rulers who spurn God's calling to serve justly, show hostility to his truth or persecute his Church, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who suffer sickness in mind or body, for the homebound and for all who ask our prayers, that God would grant them healing, peace, patience and faith that endures, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

In thanksgiving for the believers who have gone before us, especially those who have been with us during Christmases past and now live with Christ, that we may be confident in his promise of resurrection and eternal life and at last join them in his presence when his kingdom comes, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of your Son, the Word become flesh, the Savior of the nations, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God.
Amen.

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.

BLESSING

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW 62: Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



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

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

Serving us today:

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Pianist: Cathy Gresens
- Councilman: Paul Crary
- Altar Guild: Colleen Biber & Kathy Zech
- A/V and Recording: Julie Doyle



Start Your New Year with Worship!
New Year's Eve Worship
December 31, 2025
4:00 pm

2026 Offering envelopes for our members are available in the fellowship area.