

The Festival of



CHRISTMAS



Luther Memorial Church
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
A.M.
Pastor Dave Naumann
Eserhut

December 25, 2008
10:00

Organist Rhoda

WELCOME! to our celebration of God's greatest Gift – His Own Son and our great Savior, Jesus Christ the Baby of Bethlehem. We implore God the Holy Spirit to renew in our hearts this great Gospel message. Oh Come Let Us Adore Him!

TODAY'S FESTIVAL WORSHIP

Please join us in the responsive readings and singing of hymn stanzas.

Bells

Hymn 79 (*standing*) "Rejoice! Rejoice! This Happy Morn!"

Responsive Bible Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7:

Pastor: For unto us a Child is born,

Congregation: Unto us a Son is given;

P: And the government will be upon His shoulder.

C: And His name will be called

P: Wonderful, Counselor,

C: Mighty God

P: Everlasting Father,

C: Prince of Peace.

P: Of the increase of His government and peace

C: There will be no end,

P: Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom

C: To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

P: From that time forward, even forever.

C: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Hallelujah!

THE CHRISTMAS PSALMODY

Page 26 in the Worship Supplement 2000

"Sing To The Lord"

Introduction: To us a Child is born

(Luther quotes and other lessons on the Christ Child)

Sing Hymn 106:4 "To Us a Child of Hope is Born"

Luther Thoughts - The government will be upon His shoulder

Sing Hymn 712:1 "What Child is This?"

Luther Thoughts - His Name shall be called Wonderful...

Sing Hymn 76:1-2 "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

Luther Thoughts – Counselor

Sing Hymn 710:1 "Once in Royal David's City"

Bible Reading: Matthew 1:18-23: *Some think that God doesn't intervene in human affairs. But the birth of Jesus was a profound intervention on God's part, from the incarnation to the dream-messages to common men, to the choosing of His name.*

Matthew 1:18-23 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through

the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Sing Hymn 108:1 "We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise"

Luther Thoughts - Mighty God

Sing Hymn 711:1 "See in Yonder Manger Low"

Luther Thoughts - Everlasting Father

Sing Hymn 98:1 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Reading: 1 John 3:1-5: *Christmas is for Children - children of God. Only those who rejoice to be delivered from sin can really appreciate the birth of Christ.*

1 John 3:1-5 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Sing Anthem "Little Children, Can You Tell"

1. Little children, can you tell? Do you know the story well,
Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy, Why the angels sing for joy
On the Christmas morning!

2. Yes, we know the story well; Listen now, and hear us tell,
Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy, Why the angels sing for joy
On the Christmas morning!

3. For a little Babe that day, Cardled in a manger lay,
Born on earth our Lord to be; This the wond'ring angels see
On the Christmas morning!

Luther Thoughts - Prince of Peace

Sing Anthem – LEISE RIESELT DER SCHNEE

Words and arrangement by G M 1964

1. Fields are peaceful and white,
Christmas shines through the night,
Snowflakes like jewels appear,
Joyfully, Jesus is here!
2. Carols echo on high,
Clear as stars in the sky,
Angels from heaven appear,
Joyfully, Jesus is here!
3. Sin's dread curse now is gone,
Peace with God through His Son,
Freed from all sadness and fear
Joyfully, Jesus is here!
4. Sing and let us rejoice,
Join with glad heart and voice
Come, with the shepherds draw near,
Joyfully, Jesus is here!

Confession of Faith (all):

(Luther's Explanation to the Second Article)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy. Just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Sing Hymn 94:1 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Reading: "The Proclamation" from Jesus, by Wm.. Dallmann

Sing Hymn 94:3 "Come, Desire of Nations, Come"

Luther Thoughts - Upon the throne of David
Sing Hymn 708:1&3 "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Christmas Offering from thankful hearts

Responsive Prayer

P: O Mighty, Eternal God Who alone is Wise, Ruler of heaven and earth, Whose great love we celebrate this day:

C: Hear our Christmas prayer, receive our praises, and attend to our desires.

P: For the gift of Your Only-begotten Son; for the joy of promises fulfilled; for the peace of salvation from our sin:

C: We thank and praise You now and forever in Jesus' name.

P: Through Your holy Word, make us to wonder at the mystery of what has taken place on this occasion:

C: For the Divine and Infinite had taken on the finite and human; for our sakes the Godhead and manhood have been united for the work of our redemption.

P: As we celebrate this feast rich in earthly delights and human enjoyments:

C: Make us remember the deep poverty and humility into which You sent Your Son.

P: Let us remember that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor:

C: That we, through His poverty might become rich in grace and eternal peace.

P: As Jesus came in purity and sincerity and truth:

C: May we have grace to root out every sinful thought and desire, and to pursue all goodness and purity.

P: We confess that we have often let worldly pursuits distract us from the simple and perfect desire to honor and follow You in every circumstance of life:

C: For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins and renew in us a childlike love and trust in You.

P: For our own land, buried under the gloom and darkness that spiritual ignorance brings:

C: Send the light of truth into the hearts of all; cause Your faithful to speak out with the message of repentance and remission of sins in Jesus' name.

P: For those who cannot be with their loved ones; for those who are abroad in service to our country; for those who are sick or alone at this time:

C: Come with Your message of love and peace, and fill their hearts with the love that You have shown all the earth.

P: We also pray as our LORD Jesus has taught us:

ALL: (The LORD's Prayer)

Sing Hymn 646:1-2 "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

Luther Thoughts -To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

Sing Hymn 646:3 (*standing*)

Responsive Bible Reading: *Psalm 72:1-8 The earnest hope invested in the Messianic Kingdom is one of peace, of protection from oppressors, of unparalleled justice. This we find through faith in the true and living Son of David, the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ.*

P: Give the king Your judgments, O God,

C: And Your righteousness to the king's Son.

P: He will judge Your people with righteousness,

C: And Your poor with justice.

P: The mountains will bring peace to the people,

C: And the little hills, by righteousness.

P: He will bring justice to the poor of the people;

C: He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor.

P: They shall fear You

C: As long as the sun and moon endure,

P: Throughout all generations.

C: He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing,

P: Like showers that water the earth.

C: In His days the righteous shall flourish,

P: And abundance of peace,

C: Until the moon is no more.

The LORD's Blessing

Closing Hymn – Hymn 87:1