

The background of the entire page is a warm, golden-brown color with a bokeh effect of light spots and faint, swirling star patterns. In the foreground, several lit candles of various shapes (tall cylindrical, shorter cylindrical, and square) are glowing, surrounded by several Christmas ornaments in shades of red, orange, and gold. The overall atmosphere is cozy and celebratory.

Gloria

in excelsis Deo

*We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten
of the Father, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1:14*

Christmas Day
December 25, 2021
Unto Us A Child is Born

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

3210 Maple Drive, Plover, Wisconsin 54467
Phone: Church 715-341-2898; Cell 715-498-0093
Website www.beautifulsaviorploverwi.com

Pastor David E. Ficken

Our Mission

“To Know Jesus and to Make Him Known”

Our Vision

Educate, Equip and Encourage ourselves and our families through worship and study, and engage our community through discipleship, example and Acts of Kindness, using the unique gifts bestowed on each member of our congregation by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Worship Information

Parents with Young Children: We encourage families to worship together.

Worship Bulletin: Our order of service is printed out in your worship folder.

Worship Form: There are 5 “Movements” in our Worship.

- God grants us the gift of forgiveness.
- God speaks to us from His Word.
- God receives our offerings and prayers.
- God offers us His real presence in Holy Communion.
- God blesses us and sends us out.

Communion: Please read the Statement of Communion below.

(If you are **gluten intolerant** please speak with Pastor or an elder prior to the worship service so we can accommodate you.)

STATEMENT OF COMMUNION

BECAUSE THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES THAT:

- We are all sinners in need of forgiveness.
- Jesus is our only Savior from sin through His death and resurrection.
- The True Body and Blood of Christ is present in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion

 **Please see Pastor if you have any questions about this or do not believe in the Lord’s Supper in this way. You are welcome to come forward for a blessing if you are not communing.**

- **TO PREPARE:** Please use the Christian Questions with Their Answers from “The Sacrament of the Altar” on page 329 in the front of the Lutheran Service Book. You are not obligated to partake if you feel, for whatever reason, the need to refrain from the Lord’s Supper for a short time.
- **Please see Pastor if there is something going on in your life that needs the attention of Christ in private confession *and* absolution.**

AS WE GATHER

Months of anticipation for the young children among us reach their long-awaited fulfillment with the exciting arrival of Christmas Day! Take that anticipation, multiply it again and again, and you can begin to fathom how it felt for God's people, who long awaited the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah and the other prophets had foretold that this Child, this Son, would come to bring salvation unto us. In the birth of Jesus Christ, this anticipation that stretched for hundreds—even thousands—of years reaches its fulfillment as God's Son is born into our world. Together may we marvel at the mystery that is Christmas, rejoicing with the angels that this Good News is delivered unto us. May we together receive this gift anew as Jesus Himself is present with us as we gather to worship Him!

Fears abound this Christmas. It is true for us today as we consider the problems in our world and the difficulties and stresses that daily life brings our way. Fears were also present that first Christmas, when the shocked shepherds were visited by the heavenly host and the glory of the Lord shone around them. "Fear not!" the angels proclaimed. The shepherds did not need to be filled with fear at God's presence, for the purpose of the angels' visit was to announce to them the news that would change the world: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). God's Son has arrived in this world to make us the Father's own dear children. Let us rejoice this morning as we sing the praises of the babe of Bethlehem and gather to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood. Fears be gone, for on Christmas our gracious God has given birth to His perfect plan to cancel our sin and make us His own forever!

Hymns will be from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB).

WELCOME to GUESTS & VISITORS

HYMN "A Great and Mighty Wonder" LSB 383

INVOCATION *(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of your Baptism.)*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Luke 18:13

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered this Christmas morning to hear God's Word, to marvel at the mystery of the Word becoming flesh, and to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood, let us first consider our unworthiness before God and confess before Him and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition; only God's Son, Jesus Christ, has set us free from our fears and failures, our sin and death, and He enables us to live forever as God's children. Let us then take refuge in the infinite mercy of our God and, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, say: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, born into this world on Christmas, to live, suffer, die, and rise again for you. For Jesus' sake, your heavenly Father forgives you all your sins. As your pastor, it is my privilege to announce this message of grace unto you and, as Christ has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PSALM Psalm 98; antiphon: v. 2

People: The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

Pastor: The LORD has made known His salvation;

People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
The LORD has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

People: with the lyre and the sound of melody!

Pastor: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

People: make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Pastor: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

People: the world and those who dwell in it!

Pastor: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.

People: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of our sin

People: that we may rejoice in the salvation You have delivered unto us;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 62:10–12 (“Behold, your salvation comes.”)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Isaiah 9:6, adapt.; Psalm 98:1a

Pastor: Unto us

People: a child is born!

Pastor: Unto us

People: a son is given!

Pastor: And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**People: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: for He has done marvelous things!

EPISTLE Titus 3:4–7 (“He saved us . . . according to His own mercy.”)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LSB 380

VERSE Luke 2:14

Pastor: Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest,

**People: and on earth peace among those with whom He is
pleased! Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1–20 (The birth of Jesus is announced to the
shepherds.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second
chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “Away in a Manger” LSB 365

SERMON

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and

the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Wonderful Counselor, You govern all things with wisdom, righteousness, and truth. Grant to Your creation the joy of Your presence, that we may see You at work in our midst. Guide the nations of the earth to Your Son, that all would know Your salvation. Wherever the good news of great joy is announced this day, grant that lives are changed forever by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

Pastor: Mighty God, Your power knows no limits. You reign over all things and yet, in Christ, You stoop down to save us. Give to us, Your Church, the power to declare Your mighty deeds throughout the world. Inspire us to fulfill our earthly callings so that, through our lives of joyful service, all would know of Your grace and mercy. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

Pastor: Everlasting Father, You embrace us and make us Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son. Bless all those who, in any form of sickness or infirmity, need Your tender care. Heal the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and grant Your saving power to all who rest in You. [This day we especially pray for names that they rejoice in the message of Christ coming into this world for them.] Let us pray to the Lord:

People: We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

Pastor: Prince of Peace, You give to us what the world can never give. Drive out all fears and doubts. Deliver us from all enemies, seen and unseen. Grant us solace in Him whose blood has set us free that we would be Your people forever. Open our ears to the message of the

angels: “Fear not! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!” Let us pray to the Lord:

People: **We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.**

Pastor: Fearing, loving, and trusting in You above all things, we entrust all of these prayers to Your mercy, O Lord, for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have given to us and all creation. This day we rejoice with the heavenly host as they proclaim the glad tidings of great joy, knowing that the Word has become flesh and made His dwelling among us. Your holy Child, who entered our world that first Christmas, comes unto us again this day in His body and blood as we are drawn unto Your holy presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You have come unto us in the babe of Bethlehem, who grew up to live the holy life we cannot live so that, by His death and resurrection, our sin is canceled and we are declared to be Your children

forever. In Christ Jesus, You bring us Good News! We need not fear the power of sin and death, for our salvation has been secured in Christ alone. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may now, with joyful hearts, receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;*

Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” LSB 374

“Once in Royal David’s City” LSB 376

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” LSB 379

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

You have come unto us, O Father, in the precious body and blood of Christ, our Lord. Grant that we who have received Your salvation rejoice in You all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION Isaiah 9:6, adapt.; Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: Unto us

People: a child is born!

Pastor: Unto us

People: a son is given!

Pastor: And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

People: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☐ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Joy to the World” LSB 387

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

TITHE & OFFERING – our sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord

Our “**tithes**” are our first fruits returned to God in proportional, joyful, thankful and faithful response to His grace. “**Offerings**” are special gifts for ministries, memorials and needs over and above the tithe.

(If you are a guest, we welcome you as a guest, so please do not feel obligated to give an offering unless you feel moved to do so by the Spirit).

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