

Zion Lutheran Church
Mascoutah, Illinois
December 18, 2022
Children's Christmas Program
4th Sunday in Advent
(Rorate Coeli)



In the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord, we bid you a warm welcome to this worship service. May your experience of worship and fellowship this morning be spiritually refreshing and ready you for the week ahead.



Pastor: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Church Secretary: Robin Phillips
Director of Music/Head Organist/Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson

Church Office Phone: 618-566-7345
Pastor Clayton Cell: 618-447-1306
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Email: ChurchOffice@ZionMascoutah.org
Pastor Clayton email: Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org
Web site: www.ZionMascoutah.org
Find us at @ZionMascoutah on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Electronic Devices

Please TURN OFF all cell phones, pagers, electronic devices, apps and games when entering the sanctuary for worship so those around you may focus on the Word of God without electronic distraction. Thank you.

A Prayer to Begin Worship

Holy Spirit, Keeper of the mystery, grant us to recognize Jesus of Nazareth for who and what He is, lest we become only debating pupils rather than selfless disciples calling the world to repentance and faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Father are one God with dominion over us forever.

Children's Christmas Program "The Angel's Invitation"

MATINS LSB p. 219

Prelude Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Carol Tornquist

Stand

Processional Hymn Hark the Herald Angels Sing *LSB 380*
(Sung by the congregation)

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain

ref Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Refrain

Text: Public domain

Sit

Welcome and Introduction—Pastor Clayton

Song Little Children, Can You Tell?
(Congregation sings stanza 1; Children sing stanza 2)

1. Little children, can you tell, Do you know the story well,
Every girl and every boy, Why the angels sing for joy, On this Christmas morning.

2. *Yes, we know the story well; Listen now, and hear us tell
Every girl and every boy, Why the angels sing for joy, On this Christmas morning.*

The First Invitation—The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold (Luke 1:5-23)

GABRIEL (MICHAEL GANEY): You are invited! I, the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God, invite you to witness the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came down to the earth to become man, in order that He may take away the sins of the world on the cross. In the Christmas story we see the love of God and the hope He gives us in the manger. Come, and let us see Jesus Christ, our hope and salvation, be born.

NARRATOR (ROSEMARY PETERSON): The Lord sent His messenger, Gabriel, to a priest named Zechariah to tell him of the son his wife will bear. Zechariah's son will point people to the coming Messiah, Jesus, and the redemption of our sins. In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statues of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while Zechariah was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the customs of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

GABRIEL (MICHAEL GANEY): Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from this mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.

ZECHARIAH (BRADY TWENHAFEL): How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.

GABRIEL (MICHAEL GANEY): I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.

NARRATOR (ROSEMARY PETERSON): And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying,

ELIZABETH (LOLA SIMON): Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among the people.

Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway
(Sung by the congregation)

LSB 343

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story: Refrain**

Hymn continues on the next page.

ref **Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!**

**2 God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain**

**3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! Refrain**

**4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: Refrain**

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001344

The Second Invitation - The Birth of Jesus Foretold (Luke 1:26-37)

NARRATOR (RYLAN GANEY): The Lord sent His messenger, Gabriel, to a lowly girl who was to be wed to a carpenter. God invites Mary to be the mother of the world's Savior. In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to the city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

GABRIEL (MICHAEL GANEY): Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

MARY (ELLA SAX): How will this be since I am a virgin?

GABRIEL (MICHAEL GANEY): The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.

MARY (ELLA SAX): Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

Song

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356

(Children sing stanzas 1-2; Congregation sings stanzas 3-4)

*1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

*2 "For know a blessèd mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

**3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**

**4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**

Text: Public domain

Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)

NARRATOR (RYLAN GANEY): In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

ELIZABETH (LOLA SIMON): Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.

MARY (ELLA SAX): My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Hymn

My Soul Rejoices (The Magnificat)

LSB 933

(Sung by the congregation)

- 1 My soul rejoices, My spirit voices— Sing the greatness of the Lord! For God my Savior
Has shown me favor— Sing the greatness of the Lord! With praise and blessing, Join in confessing
God, who is solely Mighty and holy— O sing the greatness of God the Lord! His mercy surely
Shall rest securely On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him— O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**
- 2 His arm now baring, His strength declaring— Sing the greatness of the Lord! The proud He scatters,
Their rule He shatters— Sing the greatness of the Lord! Oppression halted; The meek exalted.
Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy— O sing the greatness of God the Lord! Here is the token
All that was spoken To Abr’ham’s offspring God is fulfilling— O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**

Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001344

NARRATOR (MAX LARA): Just as God had promised, Zechariah and Elizabeth had a son. And when the time came to name the child, their neighbors and relatives would have called him Zechariah after his father, but Elizabeth answered,

ELIZABETH (LOLA SIMON): No, he shall be called John.

RELATIVE (WAYLON NEUMANN): None of your relatives is called by this name.

NARRATOR (MAX LARA): And immediately his mouth was open and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them in their hearts, saying “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

ZECHARIAH (BRADY TWENHAFEL): Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.

NARRATOR (MAX LARA): And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

(Sung by the congregation)

- 1 **Sing praise to the God of Israel! Sing praise for His visitation!
Redeeming His people from their sin, Accomplishing their salvation,
Upraising a mighty horn within The house of His servant David!**
- 2 **God spoke by the prophets long ago, His promise on oath recalling—
To Abraham made in former years: Of vanquishing foes appalling,
That those He delivered from their fears Might gladly and truly serve Him.**
- 3 **You, child, will go on before the Lord As prophet, His way preparing;
To speak on behalf of God Most High, His counsel of truth declaring:
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby Iniquity is forgiven.**
- 4 **O bright, rising Sun, now shine on us In need of illumination;
Come scatter the shades of sin and death And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path Of peace, in Your presence dawning!**

Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001344

The Third Invitation - An Angel Visits Joseph (Matthew 1:18-24)

NARRATOR (LEIF PETERSON): Our next invitation is to Mary's fiancé, Joseph. Joseph was a righteous man, but when Joseph found out that Mary was expecting, he believed that she had been unfaithful to him. Joseph, being a righteous man, planned to divorce Mary quietly, sparing her of public shame and danger. As he considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

ANGEL (WILLIAM HUTH): Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

NARRATOR (RYAN HINTON): All of this took place to fulfill what the Lord has spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" which means God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

Song

God Loves Me Dearly

(All Children Sing)

1 God loves me dearly, grants me salvation, God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

2 I was in slav'ry, sin, death, and darkness; God's love was working to make me free. Refrain

3 He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer, He sent forth Jesus and set me free. Refrain

4 Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed. Refrain

5 Now I will praise You, O Love eternal; Now I will praise You all my life long. Refrain

The Birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 2:1-7)

NARRATOR (CHLOE PANNIER): As God had promised to Mary through His messenger, Gabriel, and to the world through prophecies throughout the Old Testament, Jesus was born. Hope had come down into the sinful world to redeem it of its sins. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloth and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Song

In a Little Stable

(3rd Grade and down sing)

- 1. In a little stable far across the sea Was a little Baby just like you and me.*
- 2. Not a bed or cradle, not a pillow deep, But a lowly manger was His place to sleep.*
- 3. Shepherds stood around Him, angels watched with care, For this Babe was Jesus, lying, smiling there.*
- 4. Oh, I love this Jesus, who was little then. For He surely loves me, little though I am.*

The Fourth Invitation - The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2:8-20)

NARRATOR (LILY MCDANIEL): At the birth of Christ the Savior, God had sent His messengers to tell the good news. But He didn't send them to kings or anyone with great riches, instead, He sent His messengers to lowly, poor shepherds out in the fields near Bethlehem. Just as Jesus is our shepherd, He invites us to witness His great miracles. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and they were filled with fear.

ANGEL (BRISTOL SAX): Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

NARRATOR (LILY MCDANIEL): And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying...

HEAVENLY HOST: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.

NARRATOR (LILY MCDANIEL): When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another...

SHEPHERDS: Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.

NARRATOR (LILY MCDANIEL): And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told to them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Rhyming Recitation for 3rd Grade and Down

*Jesus came to earth
So we could have new birth.
Jesus died and is risen
New life to us is given.*

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

(Children sing stanzas 1-2; Congregation sings stanzas 3-5)

*1 Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain*

ref Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

*2 Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain*

**3 Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain**

ref Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

**4 Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. Refrain**

Stand

**5 All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the_ternal Three in One. Refrain**

Text: Public domain

Sit

An Invitation To You - Jesus's Return (Revelations 22:8-13; 20-21)

GABRIEL (MICHAEL GANEY): God is inviting you! Jesus will return and restore us to our perfect selves made in the image of God. He will separate the sheep from the goats, He will make the new heaven and the new earth, and He will sit at the right hand of God the Father, with God on the throne. Be watchful and wait, for soon we will see the Lord upon His throne.

JOHN (ISAIAH CLAYTON): I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me.

ANGEL (BRISTOL SAX): You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God. Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.

JESUS (LUKE LARA): Behold, I am coming soon, bringing My recompense with Me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

NARRATOR (WAYLON NEUMANN): He who testifies to these things says...

JESUS (LUKE LARA): Surely I am coming soon.

NARRATOR (WAYLON NEUMANN): Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with us all.
Amen.

Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB 387

(Children sing stanzas 1; Congregation sings stanzas 2-4)

- 1 *Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*
- 2 **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 **No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4 **He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

Public domain

Sermon

The Angel's Invitation

Offering

[Please fill out a sheet in the attendance book. Visitors, please include your address. If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please write it at the top of the sheet.]

Special Offering Music

Prepare Thyself, Zion

J.S. Bach

Stand

Canticle

Te Deum - We Praise You and Acknowledge You

LSB 941



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a-pos-tles in glo-ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo-ry, the ev-er-last-ing Son,
4 You sit in splen-did glo-ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing, by all the earth a-dored.
The fel-low-ship of proph-ets their death-less voic-es raise.
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res-cue ev-'ry-one:
Up-hold-ing earth and heav-en by forc-es You com-mand.



To You all an-gel pow-ers cry a-loud, the heav-ens sing,
The mar-tyrs of Your king-dom, a great and no-ble throng,
You laid a-side Your glo-ry, were born of vir-gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi-nal day,



The cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim their prais-es to You bring:
Sing with the ho-ly Church through-out all the world this song:
Were cru-ci-fied for us and were placed in-to a tomb;
So help Your ser-vants You have re-deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth;
"O all-ma-jes-tic Fa-ther, Your true and on-ly Son,
Then by Your res-ur-rec-tion You won for us re-prieve—
May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev-er end,



Your maj-es-ty and glo-ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!"
And Ho-ly Spir-it, Com-fort-er— for-ev-er Three in One!"
You o-pened heav-en's king-dom to all who would be-lieve.
In glo-ry ev-er-last-ing. A-men, O Lord, a-men!

© 1999 Stephen P. Starke. Used by permission; no. 10001344.

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227



☐ Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

☐ 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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

L Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

L We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.

C Heaven is Your throne and earth Your footstool.

L From the beginning of creation to the present, You have shown Your concern for the welfare of the human race.

C In times of trouble You have rescued us; in times of joy You have increased our happiness.

L For Your steadfast love, O Lord, accept our heartfelt thanks.

C We confess that we have not always rejoiced in our salvation.

L We have failed to give You thanks under all circumstances.

C We have not always followed the promptings of Your Holy Spirit.

L We have failed to hold on to all that is good, and we have not consistently abstained from every form of evil.

C We have neglected to bear witness to the Light, Your Son Jesus Christ.

L We often forget that Your will is being done through us in unpleasant as well as pleasant circumstances.

C For our lack of zeal in acknowledging Your will for us, forgive us, O Lord.

L Help us not to quench the Holy Spirit within us.

C Give us a clear understanding of our responsibilities.

L As we have received from You the gift of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, may we reflect His light to all around us.

C Strengthen our sense of good judgment that we may hold fast to what is good and abstain from every evil.

L Use us to bring the good tidings to the afflicted, and help us bind up the broken hearted.

WE GO TO THE LORD IN PRAYER FOR

† Marlene Lockwood, Ryan Heck, and Nathan Stangle, as they celebrate their baptismal anniversaries this week.

† All our children of all ages, that they may always treasure the message of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

† Bob Twenhafel and Pat Meier, as they are in nursing homes.

† Members of Zion's Board of Trustees, Stewardship Committee, and Board of Finance.

† Faithfulness in support of world missions.

L Hasten the day of universal peace promised at Your Second Coming.

C We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

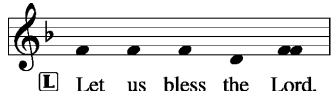
Collect for Grace

L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 228



Benediction

The grace of our Lord Je - sus Christ and the love of God

and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with us all.

A - men.

Remain standing

Recessional Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

(Sung by the congregation)

1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

Text: Public domain

Sit

Postlude

Joy to the World

David Maxwell

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

THANKS TO OUR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

NARRATORS:

Rylan Ganey
Ryan Hinton
Max Lara
Lily McDaniel
Waylon Neumann
Chloe Pannier
Leif Peterson
Rosemary Peterson

JESUS:

Luke Lara

MARY:

Ella Sax

JOSEPH:

Dalton Wambold

GABRIEL:

Michael Ganey

ZECHARIAH:

Brady Twenhafel

ELIZABETH:

Lola Simon

JOHN:

Isaiah Clayton

RELATIVE:

Waylon Neumann

ANGELS:

William Huth
Bristol Sax

SHEPHERDS:

Samuel Clayton
Callan Crismon
Solomon Hatcher
Reed Hollenkamp
Austin Murphy
Ben Pannier
Ivar Peterson
Sven Peterson
James Rehfeldt
Garrett Sax
Cole Wambold

ANGELS:

Brooklyn Baro
Kylie Beville
Kyrielle Corey
Taylor Crismon
Alaina Gryga
Makenna Gryga
Bailee Hollenkamp
Mackenzie Krausz
Madelyn Krausz
Savannah Murphy
Ava Sax
Hadley Sax
Ellie Tubbs
Grace Wambold

DIRECTORS:

Marianne McDaniel, Director
Abby McDaniel, Asst. Director
Abigail Clayton, Asst. Director
Lori Clayton, Asst. Director

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Candy Andres	Amanda Ganey
Marsha Baro	Kris Huth
Pastor Clayton	Sharon Morris
Dawn Corey	Nancy Peterson
Phoebe Corey	Jordan Rehfeldt
Katie Crismon	Alicia Suedmeyer

LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



THANKS TO MAGGIE HARLAN

Our Children's Christmas Program for this year was written for us by Maggie Harlan. Maggie, who was formerly a member of Zion Lutheran in Mascoutah until her family moved to Missouri, is currently a sophomore in high school. Thanks to Maggie for all the work she put in writing this Children's Christmas Program!

FAREWELL MEAL FOR MAKEYS – TODAY AFTER CHURCH

Pastor-Elect Josh and Sarah Makey will be moving on Tuesday, December 20 as they head to the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area for their first call. To help say goodbye, you are invited to a farewell meal after church today, December 18. The meal will be held in the church basement. Come enjoy a meal and give your best wishes to the Makeys as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ZION'S NEW OFFICERS

At the Voter's Meeting held on Thursday, December 8, 2022, the following people were elected to offices at Zion Lutheran Church: Vice President, Ben Eatherton; Board of Elders, Geoff Phillips; Sunday School Superintendent, Marianne McDaniel; Asst. Sunday School Superintendent, Anna Pannier; Board of Trustees, Mark Hatcher; and Board of Finance, Amy Kolweier. Thanks to all those who allowed their names to be considered for elections. We pray God's blessings for diligent and Godly leadership as we look into the future. Please extend your congratulations and thanks to these individuals for being willing to serve in the Lord's church. We give thanks for Mike Twenhafel and Jon Robinson, as they continue their terms as President and Secretary. We would also like to say a big "thank you" to those who are finishing their terms in office, including Ben Eatherton, Chairman; Randy Schorfheide, Board of Elders; Amanda Ganey, Board of Education; Alicia Suedmeyer, Sunday School Superintendent; Alex Tubbs and Kurt Bretz, Board of Trustees; and Deb Heck, Board of Finance. We thank and praise God for the dedicated people He provides to give guidance and leadership in His church. ******We are still in need of the following board members: Trustee, Board of Ed, and Treasurer. If you are interested, please let us know. Thanks!******

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

The 2023 contribution envelopes are available to pick up. They are located on a table in the narthex. If you don't see an envelope with your name or have any questions, please see one of the Board of Finance members: Karen Eldridge, Deb Heck, or Jenny Kneschke

HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

The Elders have established service times for Holiday Services for this year.

Christmas Eve--6:00 PM; Christmas Day--10:00 AM

Advent Midweek Services will be Wednesdays in Advent at 7:00 PM.

Please join your Zion Church Family for these special services.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR GAS CARDS

On behalf of Mascoutah's Concerned Christians, we would like to ask for donations to be collected to purchase gas gift cards to be given out for the holidays through the food pantry. Many of you so graciously helped us with this last year. This year's goal is to purchase fifty \$50.00 gift cards. Therefore, we'd like to collect \$2,500 for this project. If you wish to contribute, please place your money in the jars by the church doors. Thank you so much! If you have any questions, please ask Ken and Gail Frey.

MATTHEW CLAYTON ASSISTING AT SERVICES

You may notice that Matthew Clayton will be assisting at various services over Christmas Break. Matthew is enrolled in the pre-seminary program at Concordia University Chicago and has been active in assisting to lead chapel services there, assisting with the readings and liturgies for various services at the Chapel of Our Lord at Concordia, Chicago. Zion's Elders have approved giving Matthew Clayton the opportunity to gain experience leading worship and serving his home congregation in preparation for the pastoral ministry.

ZION'S 140th ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOKS – GREAT GIFT IDEA.... SALE PRICE \$10!

Zion has added many new members in the past twelve years. Have you looked through our cookbook? It contains more than 475 recipes, as well as some history about Zion and some fun entries as well. They sell for only \$10. Don't forget our wonderful cookbooks as you look over your Christmas list. They make great gifts!

CHRISTIAN-THEMED CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Ladies Aid has beautiful Christian-themed 2023 calendars for sale. We have a limited number, so they may go fast! They are \$6 each. We also have a wide variety of Christmas Cards for sale at very reasonable prices. See the table in the hall outside the office to shop. See Candy or Glenda to pay.

HELP SPREAD CHEER TO NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Our LWML 80th anniversary project for Nov/Dec is writing notes for nursing home/assisted living residents. We invite you to help us with this project. There are lots of blank note cards in front of the large box on the narthex table that you are welcome to take from. There are also note cards on the card rack in the hallway. If you want to help us, please sign your name on the sheet and how many notes you will be writing (whether from these notes or cards/notes on your own). This will help us track our goal to reach OR exceed 80. Since this will go on for two months, feel free to write several each month. If they are for specific people, you may send them on your own or put them in the box for us to send. There are many people who may not have local visitors, so please write a note or two for “anyone” at the facilities. They can distribute them there. Thank you in advance for spreading Christian cheer.

ZION BELLEVILLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT - TODAY

You are invited to the Zion Music Ministry Christmas Concert today, December 18th at 3 PM at Zion Lutheran Church, 1810 McClintock Ave., Belleville. The concert will feature the choir, handbells, and instruments.

ADULT RETREATS AT CAMP WARTBURG

We are hosting a Women's Retreat on January 20th - 21st and a Men's Retreat on February 3rd - 4th and would love to see you and other congregation members there! The Women's Retreat will feature the editor of curriculum resources at Concordia Publishing House Lisa Krenz. The weekend's topic will be, “Unchanging Identity In An Ever-Changing World” as Lisa focuses on how our identity in Christ never changes even though our vocations and life circumstances may. You are encouraged to bring family and friends to this weekend which includes meals, devotions, fellowship time and a special “Womanly Adventure.” The Men's Retreat will feature keynote speaker Jacob Youmans who is currently serving as a Professor of Ministry at Concordia University Texas and is a 5-time author. He will explore the topic, “Word Hard. Pray Hard.” Men are encouraged to bring their sons as well (jr. high and older) if they would like. During the weekend, all meals will be provided and there will also be an opportunity to do some fun activities and/or a service project. Registration for both of these events is available online at www.campwartburg.com . They both cost \$60 to attend.

LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUA AM850

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUA AM850 & kfuo.org: Enjoy music for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, hear history and theology of Hymns for Advent on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), and study Exodus 28-32 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.). The Twelve Days of Christmas begins December 24 and goes on through January 8! Hear special Christmas programming during this time. Regular programming resumes January 9!

EDUCATION & EDIFICATION...

Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's interview topics include: The Movie “Avatar,” Marriage Enrichment, Looking Forward to Christmas Sunday, Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUA, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

THE FLOWERS ON THE LORD'S ALTAR

The flowers on the Lord's altar are given to the glory of God by LaVonne Evers in memory of Roland and Marcella Kniepkamp.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Liturgist: Sem. Josh Makey
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THOSE WHO SERVE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THOSE WHO SERVE CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THOSE WHO SERVE CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Lector: Matthew Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton
Altar Guild: Gail Frey
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION

Sun.	<i>Children's Christmas Program</i>	
	No Confirmation Class	
	Children's Christmas Program Practice	8:45 AM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Worship Matins	10:00 AM
Mon.	Board of Ed	7:00 PM
Wed.	Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM
	Fourth Advent Midweek Service	7:00 PM
	Hand Chime Rehearsal	8:00 PM
Fri.	Senior Meal Delivery	10:30 AM
Sat.	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	
	Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols	6:00 PM
Sun.	<i>Christmas Day</i>	
	No Confirmation Class	
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Sunday School & Youth Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Christmas Day Service Worship DS I w/communion	10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 11: Sunday: 145
Adult Bible Class: 15 High School: 5 Sunday School: 38

ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 14: Wednesday: 49