

# Zion Lutheran Church

Mascoutah, Illinois

December 10, 2023

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

*“Populous Zion”*

*(Daughter of Zion)*



*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**

**Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson**

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**Web site: [www.ZionMascoutah.org](http://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

Fill us with anticipation, activate our hope, O Son of God and Son of Man, who, having redeemed us at Your first advent, has promised to come again in the fullness of time, in radiant splendor, to lead us into eternal glory; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.

# DIVINE SERVICE II WITH COMMUNION

## LSB p. 167

## Confession and Absolution

Prelude Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. David Moore

Hymn The Day Is Surely Drawing Near *LSB 508*

- 1 The day is surely drawing near When Jesus, God's anointed,  
In all His power shall appear As judge whom God appointed.  
Then fright shall banish idle mirth, And flames on flames shall ravage earth  
As Scripture long has warned us.
- 2 The final trumpet then shall sound And all the earth be shaken,  
And all who rest beneath the ground Shall from their sleep awaken.  
But all who live will in that hour, By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,  
Be changed at His commanding.
- 3 The books are opened then to all, A record truly telling  
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was dwelling,  
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen, And all be known as they have been  
In thoughts and words and actions.
- 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but carnal pleasures,  
Who here despised His precious Word And loved their earthly treasures!  
With shame and trembling they will stand And at the judge's stern command  
To Satan be delivered.
- 5 My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten;  
Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written.  
I will not doubt, for I am free, And Satan cannot threaten me;  
There is no condemnation!
- 6 May Christ our intercessor be And through His blood and merit  
Read from His book that we are free With all who life inherit.  
Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His saints in that blest place  
Which He has purchased for us.

7 **O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation;  
We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation.  
O hear and grant our fervent plea: Come, mighty judge, and set us free  
From death and ev'ry evil.**

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Exhortation

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

### Confession with Absolution

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Ps. 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Is. 62:11b; 30:30, 29*

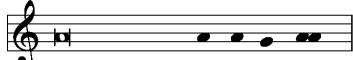
- L** Say to the daughter of Zion,
- C** **“Behold, your salvation comes.”**
- L** The LORD will cause His majestic voice to be heard,
- C** **and you shall have gladness of heart.**
- L** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!
- C** **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**
- L** Restore us, O God;
- C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- L** Turn again, O God of hosts!
- C** **Look down from heaven, and see.**
- L** But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand,
- C** **the son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself!**  
**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.

- L** Say to the daughter of Zion,
- C** “Behold, your salvation comes.”
- L** The LORD will cause His majestic voice to be heard,
- C** and you shall have gladness of heart.

Kyrie

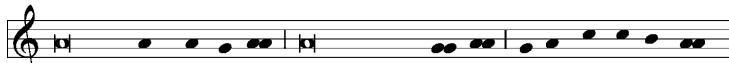
LSB 168



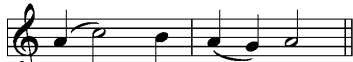
**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



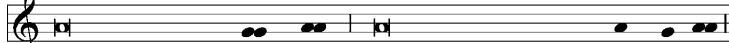
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



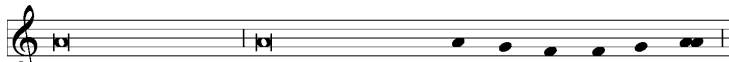
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



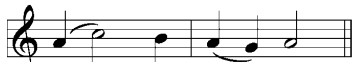
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



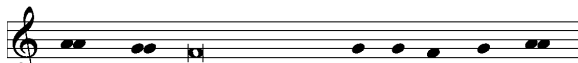
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**L** Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Malachi 4:1-6*

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

“Remember the law of My servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Choir

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Howard Helvey

Epistle

*Romans 15:4-13*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles,  
and sing to Your name.”

And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.”

And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol Him.”

And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even He who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in Him will the Gentiles hope.”

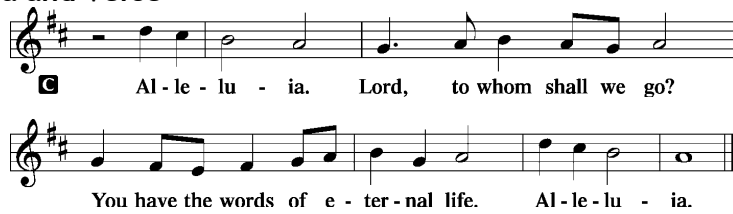
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.



**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And He told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## Hymn

### Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336

- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.**
- 2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.**
- 3 Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!**
- 4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, Claim the kingdom as Thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!**

## Sermon

## Sem. Kyle Moellenhoff to Preach

*Stand*

### Nicene Creed

**C** 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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

**P** We lift our souls to You, O Lord.

**C** Make us to know Your ways and teach us Your paths.

**P** Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation.

**C** O holy Father, we humbly implore You, help us believe Your promises.

**P** As Your servant Israel anticipated the coming of the Messiah, the Deliverer,

**C** help us to recognize Jesus Christ as that Messiah and welcome Him into our hearts by faith.

**P** Lead us by Your Holy Spirit to an understanding of our sinfulness and our need of repentance.

**C** Help us to hate sin and love righteousness.

**P** Be our strength in the hour of temptation and help us to serve You and bring glory to Your name.

**C** Send the light of the Gospel to the ends of the earth that all may know Your love in Jesus Christ.

**P** Increase the number of those who can confess with sincerity and conviction:

**C** blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.

**P** May such faith enable all nations to melt their weapons of war into instruments of peace.

**C** Grant Your abiding peace to all who are gathered in Your house today.

**P** To those among us who are afflicted, grant them strength to bear their burdens.

**C** Give us all patience to await the joy of Your abiding presence.

**P** Especially, O Lord, we implore You to look with favor upon our land.

**C** Grant wisdom, understanding, and honesty to those who govern and those who are governed.

### WE GO TO THE LORD IN PRAYER FOR

$\dagger$  Melissa Kohnen, Stefan Drinnon, Jennifer Hosler, Jacob McDaniel, Nick McDaniel, and Ray McDaniel, as they celebrate their baptismal anniversaries this week.

$\dagger$  Doug Sax, as he has back surgery on Tuesday.

$\dagger$  The family of Jeannie Ann Bailey, sister of Harry Bailey, as she was called from this world of pain and suffering to her Lord's side this past week.

$\dagger$  Pastors serving in the Dominican Republic and seminary students who gathered in Jarabacoa for their two-day fall retreat.

$\dagger$  Zion's President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

$\dagger$  Faithfulness in Christian Worship.

- P** Help us to recognize the signs of Your coming and be prepared for that great day.
- C** We pray in the name of and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sit

**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**

**Still, Still, Still**  
(Cary Robinson, oboe)

**Roberta Raybold**

Stand

**Offertory -- Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

LSB 955

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and  
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

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**Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface**

LSB 177

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**Proper Preface (Full)**

**P** 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus**

*LSB 178*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*LSB 178*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** 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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

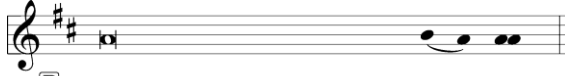
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## Pax Domini

LSB 180



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 180



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Distribution

*During the Distribution, the camera will be focused on the cross at the front of Zion to allow for privacy for those who commune.*

*Zion Lutheran practices the policy of close communion, communing only those who share our common Biblical view of the Lord's Supper. If you are not a confirmed LCMS Lutheran, please confer with the pastor before communing.*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.  
**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn

### Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515

- 1 **Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**
- 2 **The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.**
- 3 **The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.**
- 4 **Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!**

Text: Public domain

## Hymn

### Jerusalem the Golden

LSB 672

- 1 **Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest—  
The promise of salvation, The place of peace and rest—  
We know not, oh, we know not What joys await us there:  
The radiancy of glory, The bliss beyond compare!**
- 2 **Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song,  
As saints join with the angels And all the martyr throng.  
The Prince is ever with them; The daylight is serene;  
The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.**

*Hymn continues on the next page.*

- 3 Around the throne of David, The saints, from care released,  
 Raise loud their songs of triumph To celebrate the feast.  
 They sing to Christ their leader, Who conquered in the fight,  
 Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.

*Stand*

- 4 O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!  
 O sweet and blessed country That faithful hearts expect!  
 In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest  
 With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

Text: Public domain

*Sit*

Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

LSB 576

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
 No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain

ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
 In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

- 3 His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;  
 When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

- 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
 Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

### The Dismissal

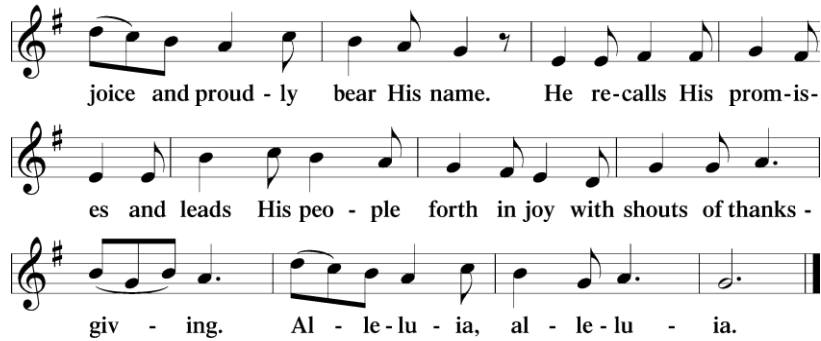
**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

### Thank the Lord

LSB 181

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Post-Communion Collect**


**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Benediction**

LSB 183



**P** 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.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

**Hymn**

**O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth**

LSB 834

- 1 **O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy living finger never wrote  
 That life should be an aimless mote, A deathward drift from futile birth.  
 Thy Word meant life triumphant hurled In splendor through Thy broken world.  
 Since light awoke and life began, Thou hast desired Thy life for man.**
- 2 **Our fatal will to equal Thee, Our rebel will wrought death and night.  
 We seized and used in prideful spite Thy wondrous gift of liberty.  
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had royal scope and room,  
 Until Thy servant, Prince of Peace, Breached all its walls for our release.**
- 3 **Thou camest to our hall of death, O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,  
 To drink for us the dark despair That strangled our reluctant breath.  
 How beautiful the feet that trod The road that leads us back to God!  
 How beautiful the feet that ran To bring the great good news to man!**

*Stand*

*Hymn continues on the next page.*

**4 O Spirit, who didst once restore Thy Church that it might be again  
The bringer of good news to men, Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,  
That in these gray and latter days There may be those whose life is praise,  
Each life a high doxology To Father, Son, and unto Thee.**

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*Sit*

**Postlude**

**Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending**

**arr. James Biery**

**Acknowledgments**

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## **LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION**



### **CHANGE IN COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION BEGINS TODAY**

It has been brought to the Elders' attention that some people who desire to receive Communion from the Chalice have been missed in Communion distribution. To help avoid this problem, the Elders are implementing a change in Communion distribution involving the placement of the acolyte. Instead of one acolyte following the person with the individual cups, both acolytes will have trays to collect the empty individual cups, but they will stand stationary outside the chancel next to the wooden pillars at the front of the church. Those who take the individual cups, please hold your cup out visible in front of you so that the person with the chalice can clearly see who has already communed, and who still needs to commune with the chalice. As you leave the communion rail, please place your individual cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Thank you!

### **CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AT VOTERS' MEETING THIS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14**

One of the items of business for the December Voters Meeting (which will be held this Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 PM) is the election of officers for the coming years. Here is the slate of candidates so far.

Chairman: Mike Twenhafel

Vice Chairman: Jon Robinson

Secretary: Jean Kemezys

Board of Elders: Dan Eads and Ray Kemezys (Two needed)

Board of Finance: Cheryl Sax (Two needed)

Board of Trustees: Lionel Timmerman (Three needed)

Board of Education: Bob Eldridge and Linda Hoskins (Three needed)

Sunday School Assistant Superintendent: No candidate (One needed)

While this is a very good start on candidates, we still need candidates for the following positions: Board of Finance, Board of Trustees, Board of Education, and Sunday School Assistant Superintendent. Please prayerfully consider allowing your name to be nominated for one of these open positions. Thank you!

### **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN GOD'S HOUSE**

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the wonderful news of God's gift of a Savior, the Baby born at Christmas. The best way to prepare for Christmas is not buying presents and going to parties and concerts but hearing God's Word in God's House. Here are the opportunities we have to gather together to hear God's Word and receive His gifts this Advent and Christmas season!

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 PM: Advent Midweek Service, Pastor Keseman preaching on "Our Lord's Authority over Sin"

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 PM: Advent Midweek Service, Pastor Clayton preaching on "Our Lord's Authority over Death"

Sunday, December 17, 10:00 AM: Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 24, 6:00 PM: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Morning Divine Service

Please mark all these opportunities on your calendar and join your brothers and sisters in faith in all of these services, as God comes to us to bless us and strengthen us! Being together in worship is the most important preparation for Christmas. We look forward to seeing you!

### **COMMUNION FREQUENCY UPDATE**

The Elders have decided not to change the overall Communion frequency at Zion, with Communion being offered on the Second, Fourth and Fifth Sundays, along with Festivals such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, etc. Also, for the benefit of those in the congregation who desire more frequent Communion, we will be offering the Lord's Supper after the service on the First Sunday of each month, starting in January of 2024. On First Sundays, the service will progress through the Benediction and Postlude, and after the greetings in the narthex, those who desire Communion may either remain in the Sanctuary or return to the Sanctuary to receive the Lord's Supper.

### **CONCERNED CHRISTIANS UPDATE**

On behalf of the Concerned Christians/Food Pantry, the committee was overwhelmed by Zion's generosity in collecting \$3,300.00 for gas gift cards for use by their organization. Thank you to EACH and EVERYONE who helped make this possible. We have included in the bulletin a Food Bank Reverse Advent Calendar for individuals and families who would be interested in participating in this calendar. You add one item to a box each day in December and build a box to donate! This could be a fun family activity for the Christmas season. Thank you for all of your support. Any questions, please contact Ken and Gail Frey.

### **PART TIME BOOKKEEPER WANTED**

The Southern Illinois District Office is currently seeking a part-time, 20 hour per week, Bookkeeper beginning immediately to manage the accounting and financial matters for the district. Knowledge with QuickBooks and previous experience is preferred. All interested applicants may contact Mr. Jeffrey Fick at [sidlcmessage@gmail.com](mailto:sidlcmessage@gmail.com) for details and or send a resume.

### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION PRAYER**

Pastors serving in the Dominican Republic and seminary students gathered in Jarabacoa for their two-day fall retreat. Jarabacoa, which means "place of waters" in Taino, is located in the mountains near the country's center. It is a relaxing place with many rivers, cool breezes and beautiful landscapes, so it was perfect for the retreat.

### **SECRET PAL PROGRAM CHANGE OF DEADLINE!**

**Next Sunday** is the last day to sign up for the Secret Pal program. On Dec 24 and 31, we will draw Secret Pal names. You are to pray for this person and can send cards or leave cards or small gifts at church during the year. Names are revealed next December. See Glenda today.

### **LADIES AID CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**

All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, December 19th, for our annual Christmas party and potluck (side dishes only, meat will be furnished). We eat at 6:00 and then will have a short program. You may bring a \$5 gift for exchange; if you have a Secret Pal, that gift may be brought also. We take a collection for Concordia Seminary. It's a fun and special evening. Plan to attend. See Glenda for more details.

### **ZION'S 140<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOKS – GREAT GIFT IDEA.... SALE PRICE \$10!**

Zion has added many new members in the past thirteen 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 2024 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.

### **FRESH, LOCALLY HARVESTED HONEY!**

The Ladies Aid has acquired pints of local honey and is offering them for sale. Stop by the table in the narthex and pick some up!

### **LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUE AM850**

KFUE Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUE.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at [kfue.org](http://kfue.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUEradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfue.org: Dive into Advent Hymnody on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.), study 1 Corinthians 12-14 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.) and learn more about the 3rd Sunday in Advent on The Coffee Hour (10/13 at 9:00 a.m.). Music and programming for the 12 Days of Christmas begins December 25! Hear your favorite programs on demand at [kfue.org](http://kfue.org) or the KFUE Radio app.

### **YOUR COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE FOR NEWS, INFORMATION & TRUTH...**

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 topics include: Christian Decision Making & the End of Life; Biblical Inerrancy; Has Evolution Disproved the Creation Account; Gender Fluidity; Pre-Marital Sex and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen on-demand at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.





FOOD BANK  
REVERSE ADVENT  
CALENDAR

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- Dec 1: Peanut butter
- Dec 2: Canned fruit
- Dec 3: Instant potatoes
- Dec 4: Oatmeal packets
- Dec 5: Stovetop stuffing
- Dec 6: Toothbrushes
- Dec 7: Toothpaste
- Dec 8: Feminine hygiene
- Dec 9: Box of pasta
- Dec 10: Canned veggies
- Dec 11: Canned tuna or chicken
- Dec 12: Box of rice
- Dec 13: Spaghetti sauce
- Dec 14: Hearty canned soup
- Dec 15: Peanut butter crackers
- Dec 16: Cake mix/boxed dessert
- Dec 17: Canned veggies
- Dec 18: Macaroni & cheese
- Dec 19: Deodorant
- Dec 20: Pancake mix
- Dec 21: Cereal
- Dec 22: Canned fruit
- Dec 23: Box of Pasta
- Dec 24: Cookies/something fun!

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

Proclaimer: Sem. Kyle Moellenhoff  
Liturgist: Rev. Kirk Clayton  
Lector: Sem. Rob Laird  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Blake Twenhafel  
Acolytes: Lily McDaniel & Viviana Jeffries  
Altar Guild: Mary Kay Krausz  
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

**THOSE WHO SERVE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

Proclaimer: Rev. Bruce Keseman  
Lector: Sem. Rob Laird  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Abigail Clayton  
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

**THOSE WHO SERVE NEXT WEEK, DECEMBER 17**

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

**THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION**

Sun. No Confirmation Class  
Children’s Christmas Program Practice 8:30 AM  
Bible Class 8:45 AM  
Worship DS II w/communion 10:00 AM  
Mon. ***Echo Deadline***  
Elders Meeting 6:30 PM  
Tues. No Evangelism Meeting  
Wed. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM  
Second Advent Midweek Service 7:00 PM  
Hand Chime Rehearsal 8:00 PM  
Thurs. Voter’s Meeting 7:00 PM  
Fri. Senior Meal Delivery 10:30 AM  
Sat. Children’s Christmas Program Practice 10:00 AM  
Happy Birthday Jesus Party 11:30 AM  
Sun. ***Children’s Christmas Program***  
No Confirmation Class  
Children’s Christmas Program Practice 8:30 AM  
Bible Class 8:45 AM  
Worship Matins & Children’s Christmas Program 10:00 AM

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 3:** Sunday: 178  
Adult Bible Class: 24 High School: 3 Sunday School: 44

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 6:** Wednesday: 33