

Zion Lutheran Church

Mascoutah, Illinois

December 13, 2023

2nd Advent Midweek Service



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 evening 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

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.

Vespers

Hymn

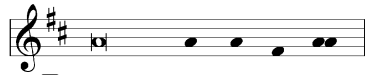
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341

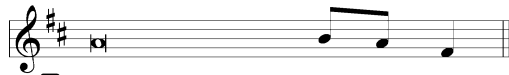
- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.**
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.**
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.**
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!**
- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**

Text: Public domain

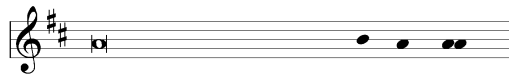
Opening Versicles *(Use Advent Response)*



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



G and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



G make haste to help me, O Lord.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 3:1-10

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Mark 2:1-17

And when He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And He was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to Him, and He was teaching them. And as He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me." And he rose and followed Him.

And as He reclined at table in His house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and His disciples, for there were many who followed Him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that He was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to His disciples, "Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Advent Responsoy



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righ-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

Sit

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

**Pastor Bruce Keseman to Preach
Our Lord's Authority over Sin**

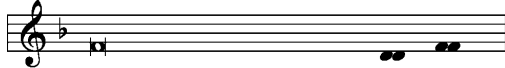
Offering

[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.]

Stand

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 231



Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

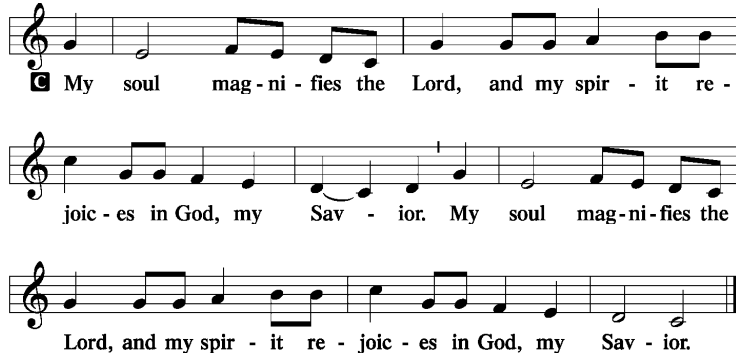


and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

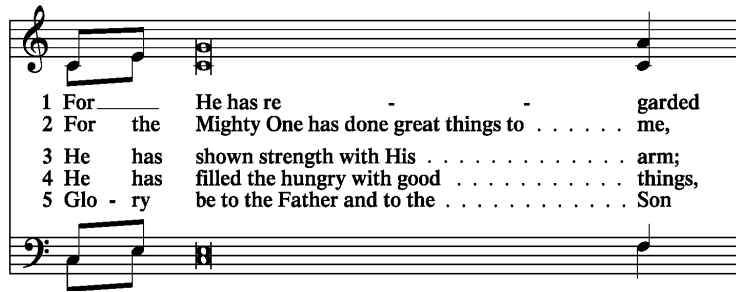
Canticle

Magnificat

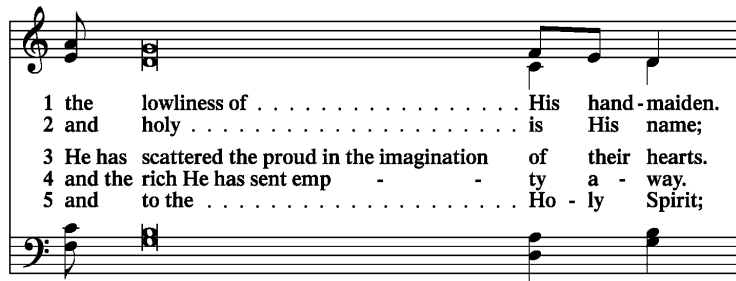
LSB 248



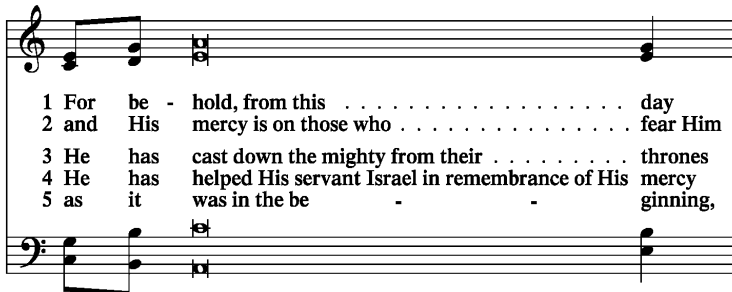
My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir-it re-
joic-es in God, my Sav-ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the
Lord, and my spir-it re-joic-es in God, my Sav-ior.



1 For He has re-garded
2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
3 He has shown strength with His arm;
4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
5 Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son



1 the lowliness of His hand-maiden.
2 and holy is His name;
3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
4 and the rich He has sent empty a-way.
5 and to the Ho-ly Spirit;



1 For be-hold, from this day
2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
5 as it was in the be-ginning,

1 all generations will call me blessed.
 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
 5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

Prayer

Litany

LSB 249

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our Synodical President, Pastor Matthew Harrison, for our District President, Pastor Tim Scharr, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our President, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Alleluia!**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

Collect For Peace

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect For the Second Sunday in Advent

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.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

L Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

Benedicamus

LSB 252



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252



L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the \dagger Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve us.



C A - men.

Sit

Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.**
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.**

- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.**
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.**

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Acknowledgments

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LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



WELCOME, PASTOR KESEMAN

Pastor Bruce Keseman has served Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeburg for the past 31 years. His wife Christine, a teacher, organist, pianist, and flutist, is Director of Music at Christ Our Savior. They have three grown children and five grandchildren. Their son Andrew and his wife Linsey are Lutheran teachers in Nebraska. Their daughter Hannah (graphic designer) and son-in-law Erik (music teacher) live in Mascoutah. Their daughter Rachel teaches kindergarten at a Lutheran school in Missouri. Pastor Keseman likes to read, camp, hike, and run. He serves on the Board of Regents for Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. We welcome Pastor Keseman this evening.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AT VOTERS' MEETING TOMORROW, DECEMBER 14th

One of the items of business for the December Voters Meeting (which will be held tomorrow, 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 and Deb Heck (Two needed)

Board of Trustees: Lionel Timmerman, Andy Sax, and Carl Sherrill (Three needed)

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

Sunday School Assistant Superintendent: No candidate (One needed)

While this is a very good start on candidates, we still need a candidate for Sunday School Assistant Superintendent. Please prayerfully consider allowing your name to be nominated. Thank you!

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE

Please pick up your 2024 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex. Thank you, Finance Board.

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 of 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.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

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

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.	<i>Children's Christmas Program</i>	
	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