

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Mascoutah, Illinois**  
**December 10, 2025**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Joel A. C. Dietrich**  
**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.

# Vespers

## LIGHTS

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn’t mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

Tonight, we focus on lights. You see them everywhere this time of year. Some neighborhoods even compete, and tourist destinations spend millions on attractive light displays. Like evergreens, this is something nonreligious people do this time of year without appreciating their true significance. Yet we know that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). He came to restore righteousness to the world. This restoration continues to unfold through the ministry He has entrusted to His church. As Zechariah sang, “In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace” (*LSB*, Benedictus, Morning Prayer). We gather this evening to bask in the light of Jesus that His Word would have its way with us and so reflect His saving light into the darkness that remains in our world.

*Stand*

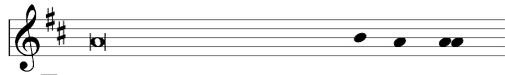
## Opening Versicles (*Use Advent Response*)



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**G** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



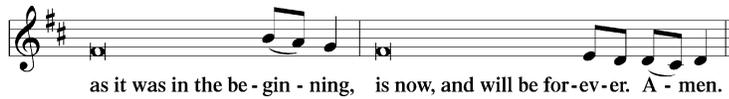
**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**G** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**G** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



*Common:* Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.  
*Advent:* Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.  
*Lent:* Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

## Psalmody

### Psalm

*Psalm 118:15–29; antiphon: v. 27*

**P** The LORD is God,  
**C** and He has made His light to shine upon us.  
**P** Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
**C** up to the horns of the altar!  
**P** Glad songs of salvation  
**C** are in the tents of the righteous:  
**P** “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,  
**C** the right hand of the LORD exalts,  
**P** the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”  
**C** I shall not die, but I shall live,  
**P** and recount the deeds of the LORD.  
**C** The LORD has disciplined me severely,  
**P** but He has not given me over to death.  
**C** Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
**P** that I may enter through them  
**C** and give thanks to the LORD.  
**P** This is the gate of the LORD;  
**C** the righteous shall enter through it.  
**P** I thank You that You have answered me  
**C** and have become my salvation.  
**P** The stone that the builders rejected  
**C** has become the cornerstone.  
**P** This is the LORD’s doing;  
**C** it is marvelous in our eyes.  
**P** This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
**P** Save us, we pray, O LORD!  
**C** O LORD, we pray, give us success!  
**P** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
**C** We bless you from the house of the LORD.  
**P** The LORD is God,  
**C** and He has made His light to shine upon us.  
**P** Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
**C** up to the horns of the altar!  
**P** You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;  
**C** You are my God; I will extol You.  
**P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;  
**C** for His steadfast love endures forever!  
**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.**

**P** The LORD is God,

**C** and He has made His light to shine upon us.

**P** Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,

**C** up to the horns of the altar!

*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 belovèd name.

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**First Reading**

*Isaiah 9:1-2,6-7*

**P** A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined. . . .  
For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of His government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

**P** A reading from Second Corinthians, the fourth chapter.

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Third Reading

John 1:1-9

**P** A reading from John, the first chapter.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Advent Responory



- 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.



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

*Sit*



Magnificat

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 away.  
 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 beginning,

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

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.]*

Stand

# Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 233



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

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 233

**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.

## Collects

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** And let my cry come to You.
- P** For eyes to behold the Father's hand in all creation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For awareness of beauty and the living traditions of the church that bring Christ to our eyes through arts and crafts, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That we may see the signs of Christ's return even as we celebrate His birth, and encourage one another all the more as we see the Day drawing near, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word and in deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That we may be thankful for the bountiful harvest we enjoy amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to the poor, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That we may not be lured into temptation or despair or be distracted by the false Christmases around us, but always hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.
- P** Lord of all beauty, You made the heavens and the earth; the world and all its fullness are Yours. Thank You for giving us life and filling creation with signs that declare Your glory. As we behold beautiful evergreens this season, fix our eyes on their thorny leaves and red berries that we may give thanks for the crown Your Son wore and the cross He bore for us. Abide in us always, as we abide in Your Word and take heart in the

promise of eternal life with Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

**C Amen.**

**P** Lord of life, You sent Your Son to bring back to life all the children of Adam. Grant that we may view the evergreens of this season through the eyes of faith so that in a world still filled with death, we may be of good courage, knowing that, just as the evergreen prevails over death in winter, we prevail over the winter of our sin and will rise to life eternal on the Last Day; 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 of Advent

**P** 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.**

### Collect for Peace

**P** 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.**

### Benedicamus

LSB 234



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

LSB 234



**L** 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.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

Closing hymn is on the next page.

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain**

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**Acknowledgments**

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**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich  
Organist: Pinky Ahner  
Acolyte: Ivar Peterson  
Sound Tech: Leif Peterson  
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

**THOSE WHO SERVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Phoebe Corey  
Offering Ushers: Tom, Lee, Tyler, & Ryan Hinton  
Acolytes: Rylan Ganey & Waylon Neumann  
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

**THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION**

Wed.	Zion Service @ Brightly	1:30 PM
	Confirmation Class	6:00 PM
	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.	Church Office Closed	
	Zion Preschool PMO	9:00 – 11:30 AM
	Senior Meal Delivery	10:30 AM
Sat.	Children's Christmas Program Practice	9:00 AM
	Happy Birthday Jesus Party afterwards	
Sun.	Children's Christmas Program Practice	8:45 AM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Children's Christmas Program	10:00 AM
	Opening of Zion's Time Capsule and reception after service.	