

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Mascoutah, Illinois**  
**December 14, 2025**  
**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent (Gaudete)**



*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.*



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**Church Secretary: Robin Phillips**  
**Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson**

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**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 "Light a Candle"

## Prelude

Speaker:

Light a candle on the altar, Now our worship shall begin;  
With a song let all here present Call the other children in.

*Stand*

## Processional Hymn

## Oh, Come, Little Children

1. **Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small.  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.**
2. **He's born in a stable for you and for me;  
Draw near by the bright, gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.**
3. **See Mary and Joseph, with love-beaming eyes,  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud alleluias above.**
4. **Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.**

Text: Christian v. Schmid, 1768–1854; trs. Unknown Tune: IHR KINDERLEIN, KOMMET, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

**P** The Lord has made known His Word. Alleluia!

**C** **The Word of His salvation. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**P** The Lord established His covenant forever;

**C** **He has sent redemption to His people:**

**P** Christ the Lord, our Savior, everlasting God and Mary's Son!

**C** Oh, come, let us worship Him!  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## THE GREETING AND PRAYER

Speaker:

We greet you, friends! We're glad you came. We welcome you in Jesus' name.  
We join with Christians everywhere Who, at this time, their hearts prepare  
To mark the birthday of God's Son And know the reason He has come.  
So listen to the things we say, And kindly join us when we pray,  
And when we come upon a song In which you are to sing along,  
Let every heart and voice unite With angels 'round the throne of light.

**C** May God the Father, Son, and Spirit Grant faith that we may life inherit. Amen.

*Sit*

## I. CANDLES OF PROPHECY

*From the first book of the Bible to the last, we hear about the Light that God promised to send His people—the Messiah, who brings the gift of salvation through His birth as a human being, His perfect life, and His sacrificial death to pay for sin. God's prophets bring a consistent message of hope for God's people through the years.*

Hymn

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

LSB 384

*(The children sing stanza 1, the congregation sings stanzas 2-5)*

- Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.*
- Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face Evermore and evermore.**
- This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.**
- O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.**
- Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory Evermore and evermore.**

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, sts. 1–4, alt.;  
tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5 Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

Speaker:

Light a candle on the altar, Though its light be small and dim,  
For the light that first was given After Adam and Eve sinned:

Speaker:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

Speaker:  
Light a candle on the altar For the years that pass with speed,  
Plainer now the plan unfolding: One would come of Abram's seed:

Speaker:  
Now the Lord said to Abram, . . . "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:1, 3b)

Speaker:  
Light a candle on the altar, Giving light a bit more clear, For another Christmas promise Of the star that would appear:

Speaker:  
"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel." (Numbers 24:17)

Speaker:  
Light a candle on the altar; Still more brightly let it shine  
For the prophecy foretelling Christ would spring from David's line:

Speaker:  
"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'" (Jeremiah 23:5, 6)

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357

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

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rst all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*
4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*
5. O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. *Refrain*
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*
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Text: Latin, 12th cent., *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, French, 15th cent.; setting: © 2011 Concordia Publishing House

Speaker:  
Light a candle on the altar For God's promise to the earth  
That the Savior who was coming Would be born of virgin birth:

Speaker:  
"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

Speaker:  
Light a candle on the altar, Adding more light to our space,  
For the prophet's plainer message Naming Bethlehem the place:

Speaker:  
"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." (Micah 5:2)

Speaker:  
Light a candle on the altar That will burn now bright and clear,  
Telling of the joyous message That the Savior's birth was near:

Speaker:  
"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He." (Zechariah 9:9)

Speaker:  
Light a candle on the altar For the good news in God's Word!  
Hear the angel telling Joseph, Mary's child is Christ the Lord:

Speaker:  
"She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 357

- 1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.**
- 2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright She bore to us a Savior, When half-spent was the night.**
- 3. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us And lightens ev'ry load.**
- 4. O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of heaven, And to the endless day.**

Text: German, 16th cent., sts. 1–2, 4; Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59, st. 3; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2, alt.; tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925, st. 3; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (Rhythmic), *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, Köln, 1599; setting © 2011 Concordia Publishing House

## II. CANDLES OF PROCLAMATION

*The Christmas story is so much more than just a story. It is the true account of the birth of a Savior for all people. Jesus was born as a human so He could fulfill the Law on our behalf and die as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The true light that gives life to everyone has come into the world.*

Speaker:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Speaker:

This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Speaker:

And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Speaker:

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,

Speaker:

To be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Speaker:

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

Speaker:

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1–7)

All Children:

Light a candle on the altar, Light a light most bright and clear,  
Light a light that shines most glorious, For the Savior now is here!

**Hymn of Joy**

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

*LSB 393*

- 1. Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**
- 2. Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

Text: Polish; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.

Tune: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol; setting © 2011 Concordia Publishing House

Speaker:

With these candles brightly burning Listen now to what we say,  
For you will know it then quite plainly Why there is a Christmas Day!

Speaker: Listen all to what I say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: This is all I want to say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: Nothing better I can say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: I'm so happy I can say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: With the others I will say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: Don't forget what I will say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: It's the best that I can say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: Can you guess what I will say?  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: I'll repeat it, friends, and say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Speaker: This is what these candles say:  
 Group: Jesus Christ is born today!

## Hymn

## Away in a Manger

LSB 364

*(The younger children sing stanza 1; the congregation sings stanzas 2 & 3)*

1. *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*
2. **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**
3. **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

Text: *Little Children's Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, sts. 1–2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3, alt.  
Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905; setting Joseph Herl, b. 1959

Speaker:  
And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Speaker:  
And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

Speaker:  
And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Speaker:  
"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Speaker:

“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Speaker:

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Speaker:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” (Luke 2:8–14)

Speaker:

Light one for the heavenly choir Thrilling o’er the Savior’s birth,  
Light it for their celebrating God’s good will to us on earth!

Speaker:

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” (Luke 2:15)

Speaker:

Light a candle on the altar, For the angel’s message led  
Shepherds to the gift God promised: Jesus in a manger bed!

Speaker:

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. (Luke 2:16)

Speaker:

Light a candle on the altar As did in the stable shine,  
By that light the faithful shepherds Gazed upon the Child divine.

Hymn

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

*LSB 380: 1, 3*

- 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:*

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

- 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 songs of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47; setting: William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

### **III. CANDLES OF GOD’S GIFTS**

*Jesus brings forgiveness, life, and salvation to everyone who believes. In Him, we also receive many other gifts, not just at Christmas, but throughout our earthly lives. These gifts bring us true light and help us reflect God’s light and love to those around us through our vocations.*

## *Grace*

Speaker:

Light a candle on the altar For the grace beyond all thought,  
Which the Christ, the Lord of glory, In His birth from heaven brought.

Speaker:

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. (John 1:1–3)

Speaker:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Speaker:

And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

## *Love*

Speaker:

Light a candle on the altar For the love of Christ, so great  
That He came to earth to save us From our lost and sinful state.

Speaker:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Speaker:

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:9)

**Hymn**

### **God Loves Me Dearly**

*LSB 392*

*(The children sing the stanzas; the congregation sings the refrain)*

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*

## *Peace*

Speaker:

Light a candle on the altar For the heavenly peace of heart  
That the blessings of the Savior To His faithful ones impart.

Speaker:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
(Romans 5:1)

Speaker:

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

## *Joy*

Speaker:

Light a candle on the altar For the joy that Jesus' birth  
Stirred among the hosts of heaven And God's children on this earth.

Speaker:

We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.  
(Romans 5:11)

Speaker:

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 51:11)

**Hymn**

**Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

*LSB 386*

- 1. Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**
- 2. Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee,  
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child,  
Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!**
- 3. Now through His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.  
Death was reigning o'er us Through sin and vanity  
Till He opened for us A bright eternity.  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!**
- 4. Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.  
Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO, German, 14th cent.; setting © 2011 Concordia Publishing House

**Sermon**

## 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

**Come Home for Christmas**  
(Alex Tubbs, soloist)

arr. Jeff Tincher

## Hymn

## Silent Night

LSB 363

(The children sing stanza 1, the congregation sings stanzas 2 & 3)

1. *Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*
2. **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**
3. **Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85  
Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863; setting traditional

*Stand*

## 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

☐ The Lord be with you.

☐ **And with your spirit.**

☐ Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☐ **Amen.**

### Additional Prayers

Lord, You are the source of all joy. Even the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad at Your appearance. Sustain us in the time of waiting for Your will and purpose to unfold in these latter days. Give us patience under trials and hope that endures the changes and chances of this mortal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, You have sent messengers to prepare the way of Your Son's coming. Grant us ears to hear and hearts to believe the words delivered by pastors and all who bear Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, You have instituted the home to be a refuge for husbands and wives and a place of growth and safety for children. Look with favor upon the homes of our land, and grant that the faith might be delivered from one generation to the next. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, give guidance to those entrusted with positions of leadership in government. Protect service men and women who defend us against the enemies of our nation, and those who enact and enforce laws that protect us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, the prophet Isaiah looked for the day when blind eyes would see, deaf ears would hear, lame legs would leap and mute tongues would sing. Until the final day of restoration, draw near to all who have requested our prayers, and give them healing according to Your gracious will. Bind up those who grieve, that they may look for the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, You give strength to those who are anxious. Give us hearts that trust in You at all times. Grant us courage to confront our doubts and fears with Your Word, and give us strength to fulfill our vocations of worship, witness, prayer and works of mercy. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### In Our Prayers this Week:

Stefan Drinnon, Jennifer Hosler, Jacob McDaniel, Nick McDaniel, Ray McDaniel, Marlene Lockwood, and Ryan Heck, 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.

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

Faithfulness in support of world missions.

Others who have requested our prayers:

O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and eagerly expecting His gracious visitation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Collect for Grace

**P** 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

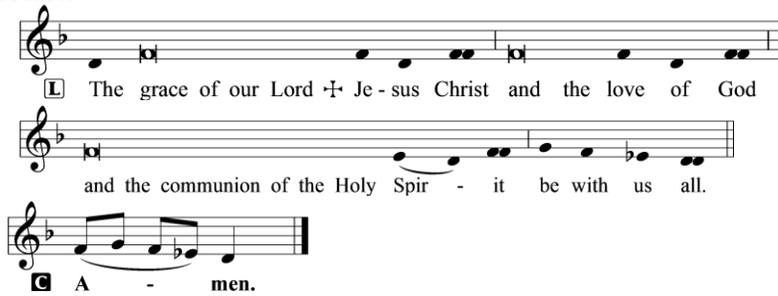


**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction



**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.

*Remain standing*

## Recessional Hymn

## Joy to the World

LSB 387

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: ANTIOCH, George Frederic Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.; setting: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

*Sit*

## Postlude

### Acknowledgments

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Edited by Thomas A. Nummela

Editorial Assistant: Megan Murphy

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**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2025**  
**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS!**

Brooklyn Baro  
Maya Baro  
Kyrielle Corey  
Cal Crismon  
Taylor Crismon  
Aaron Dietrich  
Luke Dietrich  
Alaina Gryga  
Solomon Hatcher  
Ryan Hinton  
Reed Hollenkamp  
Bailee Hollenkamp  
William Huth  
Gabriella Jeffries  
Gatlin Jeffries  
Viviana Jeffries  
Mackenzie Krausz  
Maddie Krausz  
Miles Krausz

Austin Murphy  
Savannah Murphy  
Ivar Peterson  
Sven Peterson  
Dawson Rowald  
Aspen Sax  
Ava Sax  
Bristol Sax  
Garrett Sax  
Hadley Sax  
Colton Sinewe  
Connor Sinewe  
James Trame  
Ellie Tubbs  
Mia Tubbs  
Grace Wambold

*Special thanks to  
Ella Sax for helping  
with candle lighting.*

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



### **OFFERING USHERS**

Please review the schedule below. If you're unable to serve on your assigned date, kindly let one of the Elders know as soon as possible. Thank you for your faithful service!

- **Today: Tom, Lee, Tyler, & Ryan Hinton**
- December 21: Dale & Lisa Wehmeyer, Mark & Mary Kay Krausz
- December 24: Geoff Phillips, Lionel Timmerman, Randy Thomsen, & Trent Morris
- December 25: Ray McDaniel, Duane Fischer, Matt Krausz, & Tommy Baro
- December 28: Ryan Hinton, William Huth, Rylan Ganey, & Max Lara

### **FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE**

General Fund giving through the end of November was \$243,008.98 compared to budgeted amount of \$291,120.00. Please feel free to contact a Board of Finance member with any questions.

Deb Heck, Cheryl Sax, Ken Frey

### **THANK YOU FROM THE MASCOUTAH FOOD PANTRY**

The Mascoutah Food Pantry wishes to thank Zion congregation for the food and monetary donations given at Thanksgiving time. We delivered over a pickup truck load of food along with Zion Preschool's food donations. The pantry feels very supported by our congregation and has mentioned this many times in our meetings. The pantry thanks you. Without this community support, the pantry could not be the successful pantry that it is today. Ken and Gail Frey

### **SECRET PAL PROGRAM**

Would you like to have a Secret Pal at Zion? Have you noticed gifts mysteriously appearing at church? Zion's Ladies Aid/LWML members have had secret pals for the past few years and have enjoyed it so much, this program is offered to any member of Zion who wishes to participate. You will receive a slip of paper on which to write your name, favorites, etc. from Glenda Pike. See Glenda by Sunday, Dec 14, to get details and/or sign up. (Or sign up and get a sheet from the narthex table.) On Dec 21 and 28, 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 in December. Sh-h-h, don't tell anyone!

### **LADIES AID CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**

ALL LADIES of the congregation are invited to join us this Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, for our annual Christmas party and potluck (side dishes only, meat will be furnished). This year's theme will be The Three Trees, a very meaningful story. We will eat at 6:00 and then will have a short program. You may bring a \$10 gift for exchange; if you have a Secret Pal, that gift may be brought also. We will have a collection for Concordia Seminary. It's a fun and special evening. Plan to attend. Signup sheet is in the narthex. See Glenda for more details.

### **CHRISTIAN-THEMED CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS**

The Ladies Aid has beautiful Christian-themed 2026 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.

### **LOCALLY-HARVESTED HONEY FOR SALE**

The Ladies Aid is selling pints of fresh, local honey for \$15 each. See the display on the table in the narthex.

### **SID DOMINICAN TASK FORCE PRAYERS**

The Lutheran Synod of Mexico (SLM) celebrated the ordination of another Concordia the Reformer Seminary graduate, Genaro Arcos, on Sunday. Missionary Pastor, Rev. Herb Burch, preached for the occasion. President of the SLM, Rev. Omar Garza Martínez, conducted the ordination. We pray for this new pastor as he faithfully spreads the Gospel in Mexico, and we thank God for another worker for the harvest fields.

### **MASCOUTAH SENIOR CENTER – NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

Looking for a way to give back to your community? The Mascoutah Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help provide a welcoming and supportive environment for local seniors.

Volunteer Details:

- Days: Monday - Friday
- Hours: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Commitment: One day a week (or possibly as a substitute when needed).

Whether you're available on a regular basis or as a substitute, your help will make a real difference. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and contribute to a meaningful cause!

Interested? Please contact Lita Timmerman for more information:

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

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: We're continuing our series, "Yearning for the Day of Christ's Returning" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.)! This week, we'll be studying 1 Thessalonians 5-2 Thessalonians 2. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.) as we continue our series, "Prophecy and Fulfillment, looking at Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Christ in the New. On the Coffee Hour this week (weekdays at 9 a.m.), we have some fun things to share, including a new learning opportunity through Concordia Nebraska, and an update from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or in the KFUE Radio app!

### **ANSWERING ARGUMENTS AGAINST CHRISTIANITY...**

The Christian God is Misogynistic, The Meaning of Life Is Found in Using Technology, We Don't Need the Christian God to Be Good. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to responses to common objections to Christianity at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider. You can also tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis.

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

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

**THOSE WHO SERVE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17**

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Tyler Hinton  
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

**THOSE WHO SERVE NEXT WEEK, DECEMBER 21**

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Cohen Bales  
Offering Ushers: Dale & Lisa Wehmeyer, Mark & Mary Kay Krausz  
Acolytes: Savannah Murphy & Ava Sax  
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

**THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION**

Sun.	<i>Children's Christmas Program</i>	
	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.	
Mon.	<b>Echo Deadline</b>	
Wed.	Confirmation Class	6:00 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM
	Third Advent Midweek Service	7:00 PM
	Hand Chime Rehearsal	8:00 PM
Thurs.	Ladies Aid Christmas Potluck	6:00 PM
	Trustees Meeting	7:00 PM
Fri.	Church Office Closed	
	Senior Meal Delivery	10:30 AM
Sun.	Confirmation Class	8:30 AM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Sunday School & Youth Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Worship Matins	10:00 AM

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 7:** Sunday: 118  
Adult Bible Class: 22 High School: 6 Sunday School: 28

**ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 10:** Wednesday: 46