

Zion Lutheran Church
Mascoutah, Illinois
December 17, 2025
3rd 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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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

Crèche

“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 the crèche—those miniature models of the nativity scene that abound each December. Unlike lights and evergreens, the symbols that aided our meditation these last two weeks, the crèche is distinctly Christian. In it, we behold Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Magi, the angels, the stable animals, and, at the center, baby Jesus. Some places introduce the characters in chronological order; others put them all out at once. Either way, the crèche represents a crucial, historical event: God taking on human form and human nature so that He could take our place and redeem us from all sin. We behold it with fresh eyes this evening.

Stand

Opening Versicles *(Use Advent Response)*



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



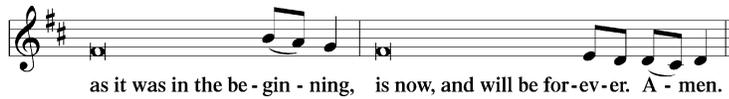
L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



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



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 89:1–8; antiphon: v. 8

P O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD,
C with Your faithfulness all around You?
P I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
C with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.
P For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
C in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.”
P You have said, “I have made a covenant with My chosen one;
C I have sworn to David My servant:
P ‘I will establish your offspring forever,
C and build your throne for all generations.’”
P Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,
C Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
P For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
C Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
P a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
C and awesome above all who are around Him?
 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 O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD,
C with Your faithfulness all around You?

Sit

Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

- 1 Savior of the nations, come, Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.

- 5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.**
- 6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.**
- 7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.**

Stand

- 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

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Sit

First Reading

1 John 1:1–4

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

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Matthew 1:18–25

- P** A reading from St. Matthew, the first chapter.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Advent Responsory

Verse *To Refrain*



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.

Refrain



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

Sit

Hymn

The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

Refrain: Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer.
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom as white as any flow'r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. Refrain

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. Refrain

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. Refrain

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. Refrain

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown.
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. Refrain

Text: English carol. Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Antiphon (Common)



Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



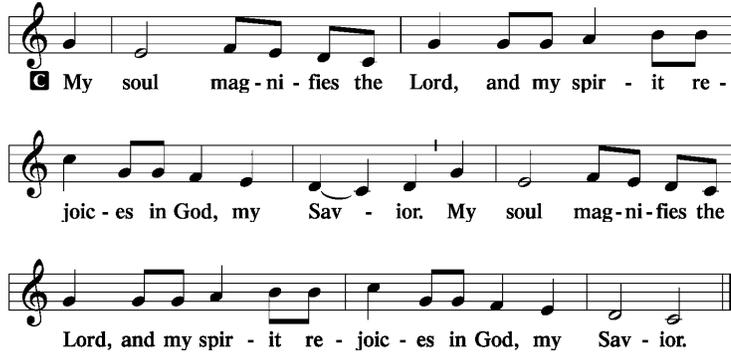
and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

LSB 231

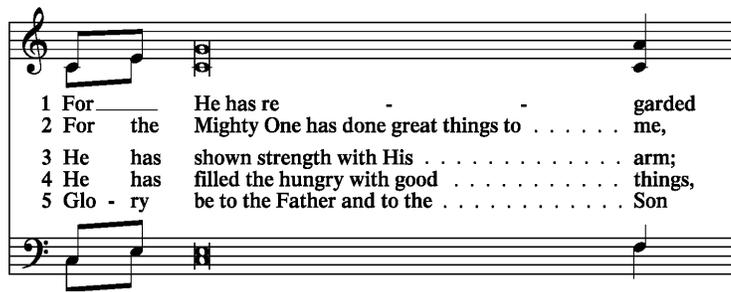
Canticle

Magnificat

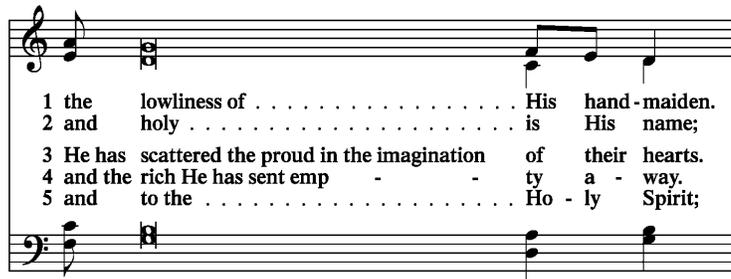
LSB 248



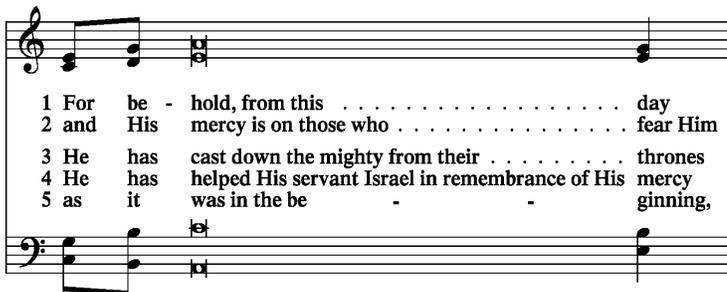
My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



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 emp - ty 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*

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 Third Sunday of Advent

P 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.

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.



Sit

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Stanzas 1, 5)

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**

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

**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**

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Acknowledgments

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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!

- 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

2026 offering envelopes are located on the table in the hallway by the office door. Please pick up your envelope box. If you don't see a box with your name and would like envelopes, please let a Board of Finance member know. If you choose to donate through PayPal, we will still need to assign you a number.

Deb Heck, Cheryl Sax, Ken Frey

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

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

THOSE WHO SERVE SUNDAY, 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: Ava Sax & Max Lara
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION

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 PM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Sunday School & Youth Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Worship Matins	10:00 AM