

Zion Lutheran Church

Mascoutah, Illinois

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent

NOW
THE
LORD
IS
NIGH
COME
LET
US
ADORE

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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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

Heavenly Father, restrain us from believing that the voices of the dead or the messages of angels or anything other than Your Word and sacraments, with the power of the Holy Spirit in them, will bring us to, or keep us in, Your holy and saving faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.

MATINS LSB p. 219

God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “God with us.” The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus “descended from David according to the flesh” (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called “Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately “did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

Prelude

The Friendly Beasts
(Hand Chimes)

arr. Kevin McChesney

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!**
- 3 How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.**
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Text: Public domain

Stand

Holy Baptism

(Due to the fact that this is a worship service, held in God's House, conducted before His Altar, we respectfully request that no flash photographs be taken during the Baptism. Thank you for respecting the reverence of worship.)

Stand

p268

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

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

C Amen.

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The pastor addresses the candidate:

P How are you named?

R Quincy May Baro

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate while saying:

P Quincy May Baro, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold Quincy May Baro according to Your boundless mercy and bless her with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in her which has been inherited from Adam and which she has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that she be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, she would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

The pastor addresses the sponsors.

P Is it your intention to serve Quincy May Baro as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R Yes, with the help of God.

P God enable you to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to Jesus that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to

Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation joins in praying:

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.**

P The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even † forevermore.

C **Amen.**

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:

P Quincy May Baro, do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Quincy May Baro, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*

The pastor pours water three times on the head of the candidate while saying:

P Quincy May Baro, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you before the foundation of the world.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

P In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our sister in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called out us of darkness into His marvelous light.

C **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

Stand

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Quincy May Baro the new birth in Holy Baptism and made her a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as she has now become Your child, You would keep her in her baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure she may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** Amen.
- P** Peace † be with you.
- C** Amen.

Versicles

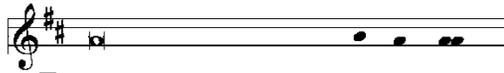
LSB 219



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;



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



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Psalmody

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 220



L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

LSB 220

C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,

1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 221

L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.

C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm

Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7

- P** The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
- C** the world and those who dwell therein,
- P** for He has founded it upon the seas
- C** and established it upon the rivers.
- P** Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
- C** And who shall stand in His holy place?
- P** He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
- C** who does not lift up his soul to what is false
- P** and does not swear deceitfully.
- C** He will receive blessing from the Lord
- P** and righteousness from the God of His salvation.
- C** Such is the generation of those who seek Him,
- P** who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- C** Lift up your heads, O gates!
- P** And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
- C** that the King of glory may come in.
- P** Who is this King of glory?
- C** The Lord, strong and mighty,
- P** the Lord, mighty in battle!

C Lift up your heads, O gates!
P And lift them up, O ancient doors,
C that the King of glory may come in.
P Who is this King of glory?
C The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!
 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.

Sit

Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
 “All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- 2 “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee;
 Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
 “My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
 And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Text: Public domain

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for You to weary men, that You weary My God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the Boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

Choir

Song of Mary

Faye Lopez

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

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”

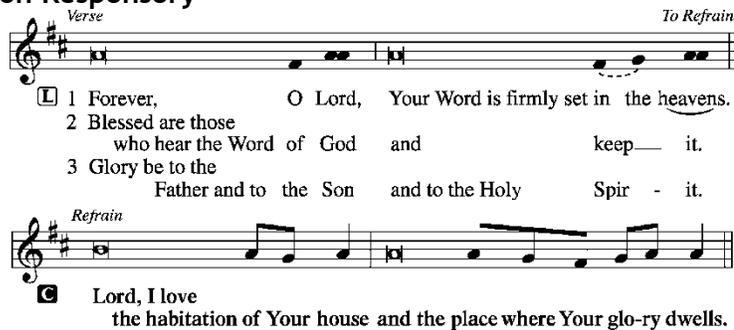
(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name Jesus.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Common Responsory

LSB 221



The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The Verse consists of two lines of music. The first line is marked 'Verse' and the second line is marked 'To Refrain'. The lyrics are: 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens. 2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it. 3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. The Refrain consists of two lines of music. The first line is marked 'Refrain' and the second line is marked 'C'. The lyrics are: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Children's Devotion

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
- ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest 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 give 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: Public domain

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

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

arr. Cathy Moklebust

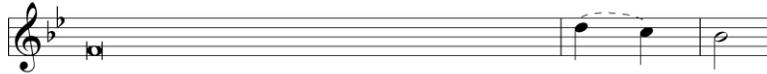
(Hand Chimes)

Stand

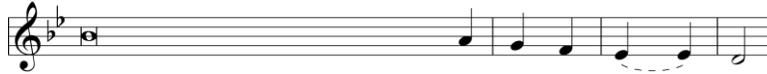
Canticle

Te Deum - We Praise You, O God

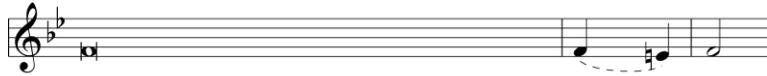
LSB 223



- 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



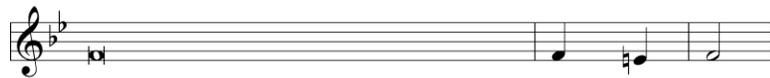
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be — our — judge.



7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
 8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
 9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
 8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
 9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Additional Prayers

O God, You have kept Your Word and delivered to us Your own Son by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin. Guide us so that we may rejoice in the Word made flesh and in the redemption He has won by His holy life, life-giving death and resurrection. Bless all pastors, that they may faithfully preach and teach this Gospel. Open the hearts of young men to hear and heed Your call to the ministry. Bless all church workers in their various vocations, that they may serve us well in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You raised up Joseph, a man honorable and just, to be the guardian and earthly father to Your Son. Give all earthly fathers wisdom, patience, pride of duty and, above all, faith and loyalty to Your Word, that knowing Your true Guardianship, they may head their households with godly forbearance. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You do not bear with the tiresome flattery and unbelief of kings and rulers forever. Have mercy on us, Lord, and spare our nation. Clear away all empty shows of piety and renew genuine faith in the Virgin's Son, that His coming at the last may not be a sign against us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the giver of every good gift, O Lord, and You care for us in all our needs of body, mind and spirit. Give healing to the sick, relief to the suffering, peace to the dying and comfort to those who mourn. According to Your gracious will, sustain them all by Your grace, and give them patience and courage as they await the unfolding of Your healing grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In Our Prayers this Week:

Nathan Stangle, Robyn Rakers, Sophia Bretz, & Lisa Wehmeyer, as they celebrate their Baptismal Anniversaries this week.

Quincy May Baro, as she is baptized today.

Zion's President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Faithfulness in Christian Worship.

Others who have requested our prayers: Tom & Cheryl Sax, Angie Rowold

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Dayspring from on high and the splendor of light everlasting. By His coming in the flesh and by His blessed Word, enlighten our hearts with the Gospel, enlighten the hearts of those who sit in the darkness of unbelief with the light of saving faith, and enlighten those who dwell in the shadow of death with the certain hope of the resurrection through Him. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; 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.



G Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

- 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.**

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Postlude**Lift Up Your Heads****arr. James Biery****Acknowledgments**

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LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



WE WELCOME QUINCY BARO!

We rejoice with Tommy and Marsha Baro as they celebrate the birth and rebirth in Baptism of Quincy May Baro. Surrounded by love and guided by her sponsors, Erin Lee and Cole Schrage, Quincy is welcomed into the family of God. Welcome, little one—may your life be filled with faith, hope, and love. Quincy’s Baptismal Verse is: *“But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.” Isaiah 43:1*

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO ZION’S NEW OFFICERS

At the Voters’ Meeting held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, the following individuals were elected to serve in leadership roles at Zion Lutheran Church:

- **Chairman:** Randy Thomsen
- **Vice Chairman:** Jeff Fick
- **Board of Elders:** Tony Lara
- **Council Secretary:** Lee Hinton
- **Board of Education:** Alicia Dietrich
- **Sunday School Superintendent:** Mark Krausz
- **Assistant Sunday School Superintendent:** Marianne McDaniel
- **Board of Trustees:** Frank Jeffries
- **Board of Finance:** Karen Eldridge

We thank all those who allowed their names to be considered for election and pray God’s blessings upon these leaders as they serve with diligence and faithfulness. Please join us in congratulating and thanking them for their willingness to serve in the Lord’s church. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to those who are completing their terms of office: Jon Robinson (Chairman), Geoff Phillips (Board of Elders), Jean Kemezys (Council Secretary), Bob Eldridge (Board of Education), Dawn Corey (Sunday School Superintendent), Lionel Timmerman (Board of Trustees), and Deb Heck (Board of Finance). We thank and praise God for the dedicated people He provides to guide and lead His church. *We still have a vacancy on the Board of Education, if interested in filling it please speak with Cary Robinson.*

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

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th

Installation of officers for the new year will be held during the 10:00 AM worship service on January 4, 2026. All officers and board members, please be in attendance.

CHURCH TIME CAPSULE

The contents from the 125th anniversary and the year 2000 time capsules are being displayed in one of the Sunday School rooms in the basement. Please feel free to take a look. We ask that nothing be removed, but please feel

free to take pictures. We will leave the contents out through January. Also, we invite the congregation and all Sunday School students to create new items to put back into a time capsule. Sometime in February we will seal up all the time capsules. If you have something to contribute, please put it in an envelope and label it "Time Capsule" and bring it to the church office. If you have any questions, please see Deb Heck.

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

Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center held a diaconal conference in Guatemala with the theme "Mercy as the Heart of Jesus." Eight students studied their first course, "Diaconal Identity," and 18 deaconesses received a workshop on Lutheran evangelism called "Every One His Witness". We are thankful for these women and their desire to grow in God's Word for service to the Church.

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:

'ST PAUL' HYMN FESTIVAL

Everyone is invited to a hymn festival commemorating the liturgical Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul. Four SID churches named 'St. Paul' will join together for this hymn festival: St. Paul's Columbia, St. Paul Hamel, St. Paul's Troy, and St. Paul Wood River. The Hymn Festival will be Jan. 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's Troy, 112 N. Border St., Troy, IL. Hymn commentaries will be provided by pastors of the participating churches. The organist will be Joseph Meador from St. Paul, Wood River and MELHS. The choir conductor will be Karen Shimkus from St. Paul, Troy and St. Paul, Columbia. The accompanist will be Kantor Janet Muth from St. Paul, Hamel. Singers and instrumentalists from all 4 churches and MELHS will participate. In the spirit of St. Paul, a mission offering will be collected for the Seminario Concordia El Reformador in the Dominican Republic (a mission partner of the SID).

LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUE AM850

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfue.org: Merry Christmas! On Thursday, December 25th at 10 a.m., Village Lutheran in Ladue, MO will broadcast their Christmas Day service live on KFUE. But the celebration doesn't stop there! Join us as we rejoice in the coming of our Savior during the 12 Days of Christmas! Tune in December 24th-January 6th for special programming and beautiful sacred music in honor of the season!

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON...

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is," "Once in Royal David's City," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Joy to the World." Beginning Christmas Eve, you can listen to sacred music for the Christmas season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

THE FLOWERS ON THE LORD'S ALTAR

The flowers on the Lord's altar are given to the glory of God by the Timmermans in joyful celebration of their anniversary.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Cohen Bales
Offering Ushers: Dale & Lisa Wehmeyer, Matt Krausz, & Tommy Baro
Acolytes: Ava Sax & Max Lara
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

THOSE WHO SERVE CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Leif Peterson
Offering Ushers: Geoff Phillips, Lionel Timmerman, Randy Thomsen, & Trent Morris
Acolyte: Dawson Rowold
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

THOSE WHO SERVE CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Cohen Bales
Offering Ushers: Ray McDaniel, Duane Fischer, Mark & Mary Kay Krausz
Acolyte: Ryan Hinton
Altar Guild: Lita Timmerman & Candy Andres
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

THOSE WHO SERVE NEXT WEEK, DECEMBER 28

Proclaimer: Rev. Sean Daenzer
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Ryan Hinton
Offering Ushers: Ryan Hinton, William Huth, Rylan Ganey, & Max Lara
Acolytes: Benjamin Pannier & Cole Wambold
Altar Guild: Lita Timmerman
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION

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| Sun. | Confirmation Class | 8:30 AM |
| | Bible Class | 8:45 AM |
| | Sunday School & Youth Bible Class | 8:45 AM |
| | Worship Matins | 10:00 AM |
| Mon. | Board of Ed | 6:00 PM |
| Wed. | <i>Christmas Eve</i> | |
| | Church Office Closed | |
| | Service of Lessons and Carols | 6:00 PM |
| Thurs. | <i>Christmas Day</i> | |
| | Church Office Closed | |
| | Divine Service w/communion | 10:00 AM |
| 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 DS III w/communion | 10:00 AM |

ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 14: Sunday: 158
Adult Bible Class: 27 High School: 6 Sunday School: 27

ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 17: Wednesday: 50