

Zion Lutheran Church
Mascoutah, Illinois
December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve
Service of Lessons and Carols



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.

A Prayer to Begin Worship

Excite us to song and praise on the eve of the birthday of the Christ whose gift the Holy Spirit brings to us by faith, causes us to love, and sustains us by hope of His appearing, dear Heavenly Father, that You may know our gratitude for Your gift; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.

Prelude

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Jeffrey Blersch

Stand

Bidding Prayer

P Beloved in Christ, let us hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem, to see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

Let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church He came to build. And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us remember in His name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words our Savior Christ has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

Lights are turned off, candles are lit. You are encouraged to hold the candle up beside you so the candlelight can fill the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376

- 1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

**4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.**

**5 Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!**

Text: Public domain

Sit

First Reading

Genesis 3:8-19

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 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." To the woman He said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Elliot Goodwin

Second Reading

Genesis 22:15-18

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359

**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: Public domain

Third Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** **arr. John Leavitt**

Fourth Reading

Isaiah 11:1–9

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

Fifth Reading

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

Sixth Reading

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Silent Night

LSB 363

- 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: Public domain

Seventh Reading

Luke 2:8-16

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

(Stanza 2, Choir only)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Choir only

- 2 *Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

Text: Public domain

Eighth Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

LSB 400

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**
- 2 Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining; Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**
- 3 Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion, Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration; Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**
- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

Text: Public domain

Ninth Reading

John 1:1-14

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. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!**
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him Born the king of angels: Refrain
- ref **O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,**
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
- 2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,**
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,**
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest: Refrain
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;**
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: Public domain

Candles are extinguished, Lights are turned on.

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

Stand

Closing Collect and Benediction

P O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thine only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

C Amen.

Remain Standing

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

- 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: Public domain

Sit

Postlude

Joy to the World

arr. Jacob Weber

Acknowledgments

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LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



THANK YOU TO OUR MUSICIANS FOR THIS EVENING

We are grateful for the instrumentalists who enhanced this Lessons and Carols service: Rosemary Peterson and Sylvia Phillips, violin; Bjorn Peterson, cello; Hannah Drinnon, clarinet; Josh, Knut, Leif, and Ivar Peteron, trumpet; Abby McDaniel, French horn; Bob Eldridge, Ryan Hinton, Jon Robinson, and Thor Peterson, trombone

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!

- **Tonight: 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.*

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.

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 THIS EVENING

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Leif Peterson
Offering Ushers: Geoff Phillips, Lionel Timmerman, Randy Thomsen, & Trent Morris
Acolytes: 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
Acolytes: 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

Wed.	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	
	Service of Lessons and Carols	6:00 PM
Thurs.	<i>Christmas Day</i>	
	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