

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Mascoutah, Illinois**  
**December 3, 2025**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Advent Midweek Service**



*In the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord, we bid you a warm welcome to this worship service. May your experience of worship and fellowship this evening be spiritually refreshing and ready you for the week ahead.*



**Pastor: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich**  
**Church Secretary: Robin Phillips**  
**Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson**

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**Web site: [www.ZionMascoutah.org](http://www.ZionMascoutah.org)**  
**Find us at [@ZionMascoutah](#) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram**

## Electronic Devices

Please TURN OFF all cell phones, pagers, electronic devices, apps and games when entering the sanctuary for worship so those around you may focus on the Word of God without electronic distraction. Thank you.

# Vespers

## EVERGREENS

“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 evergreens. Perhaps the most innocuous decorations in the eyes of the world, their prickles remind us of the crown of thorns, and the berries of the holly evoke the blood-stained brow of our crucified Lord. Above all, the steadfastness of their green in the midst of death symbolizes life amid death—and the life eternal Jesus won for us on the cross.

*Stand*

## Opening Versicles *(Use Advent Response)*



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



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



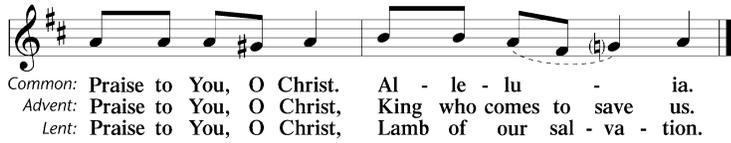
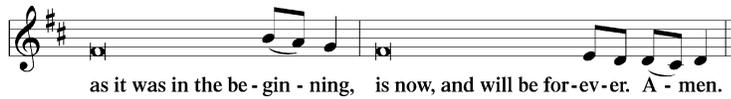
**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**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;



## Psalmody

### Psalm

*Psalm 92; antiphon: v. 12*

- P** The righteous flourish like the palm tree  
**C** and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.  
**P** It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
**C** to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;  
**P** to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,  
**C** and Your faithfulness by night,  
**P** to the music of the lute and the harp,  
**C** to the melody of the lyre.  
**P** For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;  
**C** at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.  
**P** How great are Your works, O LORD!  
**C** Your thoughts are very deep!  
**P** The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:  
**C** that though the wicked sprout like grass  
**P** and all evildoers flourish,  
**C** they are doomed to destruction forever;  
**P** but You, O LORD,  
**C** are on high forever.  
**P** For behold, Your enemies, O LORD,  
**C** for behold, Your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be | scattered.  
**P** But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;  
**C** You have poured over me fresh oil.  
**P** My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;  
**C** my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.  
**P** The righteous flourish like the palm tree  
**C** and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.  
**P** They are planted in the house of the LORD;  
**C** they flourish in the courts of our God.  
**P** They still bear fruit in old age;  
**C** they are ever full of sap and green,  
**P** to declare that the LORD is upright;  
**C** He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in 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** The righteous flourish like the palm tree  
**C** and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

- 1 **Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!**  
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2 **Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.**  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!
- 3 **My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;**  
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
- 4 **Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!**  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

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### First Reading

*Hosea 14:4-8*

**P** A reading from Hosea, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for My anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from Me comes your fruit.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Second Reading

*Revelation 22:1-5*

**P** A reading from Revelation, the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Third Reading

*John 11:17-27*

**P** A reading from John, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die,



Stand

### Antiphon (Common)

LSB 231

**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,  
**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

## Canticle

### Magnificat

LSB 248

**C** 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 blessèd.  
 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*

**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.]*

**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 First Sunday of Advent

**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.**

### 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



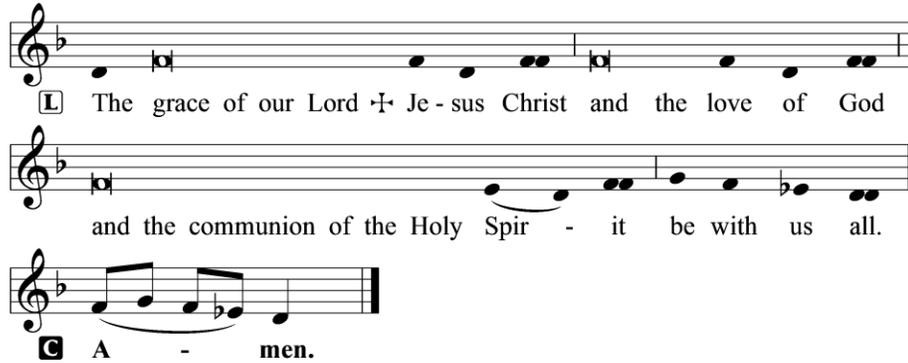
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**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.  
**G** A - men.

*Sit*

## Hymn

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 1, 4)

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!**

**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**

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#### Acknowledgments

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## LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION

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### DECEMBER ECHO – NOW AVAILABLE

The December Echo and calendar are now available in the narthex or at [zionmascoutah.org](http://zionmascoutah.org).

### 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 7: Geoff & Robin Phillips, Jon & Cary Robinson
- December 14: 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

### **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

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

### **THOSE WHO SERVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Tyler Hinton  
Offering Ushers: Geoff & Robin Phillips, Jon & Cary Robinson  
Acolytes: Rylan Ganey & Waylon Neumann  
Elder of the Month: Ray Kemezys

### **THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION**

Wed.	Zion Service @ Brightly	1:30 PM
	Confirmation Class	6:00 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM
	First Advent Midweek Service	7:00 PM
	Hand Chime Rehearsal	8:00 PM
Thurs.	Church Council	6:00 PM
Fri.	Church Office Closed	
	Zion Preschool PMO	9:00 – 11:30 AM
	Senior Meal Delivery	10:30 AM
Sat.	Family Movies	2:30 PM
Sun.	Children's Christmas Program Practice	8:45 AM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Worship DS I	10:00 AM
	Men's Club	6:00 PM