

Zion Lutheran Church

Mascoutah, Illinois

January 4, 2026

The Epiphany of Our Lord



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.



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

Church Office Phone: 618-566-7345
Pastor Dietrich Cell: 618-978-5400
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Email: ChurchOffice@ZionMascoutah.org
Pastor Dietrich email: revdietrich@aol.com or Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org
Web site: www.ZionMascoutah.org
Find us at [@ZionMascoutah](https://www.facebook.com/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

We pray You, merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father through Jesus Christ, fill the clamoring needs of our souls, the pangs of our bodies, and the yearning of our intellect with Christ, for we are whole and free only as He meets us in our bondage and our helplessness; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.

DIVINE SERVICE I

LSB p. 151

Confession and Absolution

The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas, and yet it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the Season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6).

Prelude

Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397

- 1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

Stand

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

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17

P I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;

C **therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.**

P Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

C **You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

P Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions;

C **Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

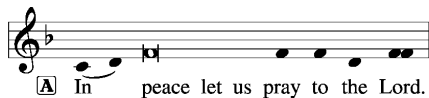
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;

C **therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.**

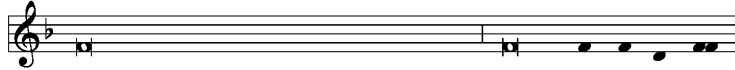
Kyrie

LSB 152





C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



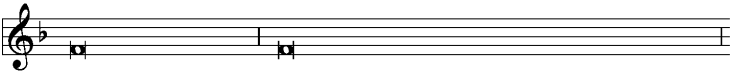
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



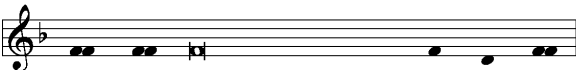
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise -- This Is the Feast

LSB 155



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Sit

Hymn

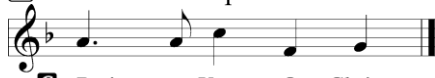
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Devotion

Hymn

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395

- 1 **O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**
- 2 **Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine, And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.**
- 3 **Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached us.**
- 4 **Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

5 O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

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Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I 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. Amen.

Sit

Installation of Officers

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

Offertory

LSB 159

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-

va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O God, You have made Yourself known to all nations in the person of Your Son. Grant us a right knowledge of Him, that we would abandon the darkness of this world and embrace the joy of His heavenly light. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have appointed pastors to make known the mystery of Your grace. Grant them the boldness of St. Paul to speak what You have revealed to them in Your Word, that we would worthily partake of all Your gifts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before You. Bless the families of this congregation with Your grace and protection, that they might remember You in both joy and trouble and worship before You forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enlighten, O Lord, the rulers of this world by the proclamation of Your wisdom, which casts down the proud and raises up the lowly. Work peace and justice in our land, and give free course to Your blessed Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You have made us fellow heirs of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Remember all those who are afflicted and in need of deliverance. Hear their prayers, provide help and deliverance according to Your will, and preserve them in the faith until that day when their eternal healing is fully revealed. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, as Your Son was once found in the arms of the Virgin Mary, so now is He found in Your Holy Christian Church. Cause Your Word to abide richly among us, that many would be led to Christ through our witness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In Our Prayers this Week:

Blake Rowold, Anna Pannier, Paul Bretz, and Viktor Hatcher, as they celebrate their Baptismal Anniversaries this week.

All new board members of Zion as they begin their time of service.

Zion's Men's Club, Ladies Aid, and Youth Group.

Faithfulness in personal witness and evangelism.

Others who have requested our prayers:

All these needs, gracious Father, and whatever else You know that we need, grant for the sake of Him who shattered this world's darkness with everlasting light, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

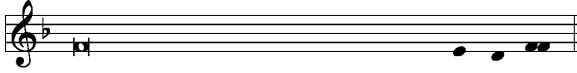
LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Benediction

LSB 166



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.



C A - men.

Sit

Hymn

Rise, Shine, You People

LSB 825

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, With grace unbounded.**
- 2 See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, Now are forgiven.**
- 3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story Of Jesus' glory.**
- 4 Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation His new creation.**

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Postlude

Acknowledgments

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LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



JANAURY ECHO – NOW AVAILABLE

The January Echo and calendar are now available in the narthex or at 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!

- **Today** Lita Timmerman, Cary Robinson, Candy Andres, & Joyce Hendrix
- Jan 11 Trent & Sharon Morris, Mike & Amanda Ganey
- Jan 18 Joe & Konya Bloomquist, Mark & Chris Hatcher
- Jan 25 Kris & William Huth, Lee & Ryan Hinton

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

We will resume LifeLight Bible Study on January 12, 2026. Join us at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings as we study the book of Revelation. LifeLight provides a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture so Christian adults may grow their personal faith in Jesus Christ. Call or text Randy Thomsen (571) 550-1748 by January 10th to join.

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.*

LCMS FOUNDATION

We live in a "I can do it myself" culture. That has been cultivated by our access to technology. Yet the question is, "Do I need help to create my Christian estate plan?" This month we consider that your estate plan represents the biggest collection of decisions with far more impact than any others in life. To begin with, a good estate plan will include a good attorney, who can take your goals and put them down into carefully crafted, precise documents. Without an attorney, you risk allowing your will to be contested, or making mistakes that could leave something out you wished to do. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can get you ready to meet with your attorney. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org .

LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUE AM850

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: A blessed New Year and Happy Epiphany! This week on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.), we're launching into a new study of the book of Genesis. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.) as we begin "The Magnificent 37", a new series on the miracles of Jesus! On the Coffee Hour this week (weekdays at 9 a.m.), we have some fun things to share, including a new series on the history of the Augsburg Confession with Dr. Cameron MacKenzie and an introduction to this year's Searching Scripture theme! Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUE Radio app.

THE FLOWERS ON THE LORD'S ALTAR

The flowers adorning the altar are given to the glory of God by the Kemezys family in joyful thanksgiving for Callan Crismon's birthday.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Leif Peterson
Offering Ushers: Lita Timmerman, Cary Robinson, Candy Andres, & Joyce Hendrix
Acolytes: Savannah Murphy & Sean Spicer
Elder of the Month: Tom Sax

THOSE WHO SERVE NEXT WEEK, JANUARY 11

Proclaimer: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Tyler Hinton
Offering Ushers: Trent & Sharon Morris, Mike & Amanda Ganey
Acolytes: Viviana Jeffries & Aaron Dietrich
Altar Guild: Lita Timmerman & Candy Andres
Elder of the Month: Tom Sax

THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION

Sun. Confirmation Class 8:30 AM
Sunday School & Youth Bible Class 8:45 AM
Bible Class 8:45 AM
Worship DS I 10:00 AM
Men's Club 6:00 PM
Wed. Zion Service @Brightly 1:30 PM
Confirmation Class 6:00 PM
Thurs. Church Council 6:00 PM
Fri. Church Office Closed
Zion Parent's Morning Out 9:00 – 11:30 AM
Senior Meal Delivery 10:30 AM
Sun. Confirmation Class 8:30 AM
Sunday School & Youth Bible Class 8:45 AM
Bible Class 8:45 AM
Worship DS II w/communion 10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve: 231

ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 25: Christmas Day: 98

ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 28: Sunday: 133
Adult Bible Class: 22 High School: 1 Sunday School: 16