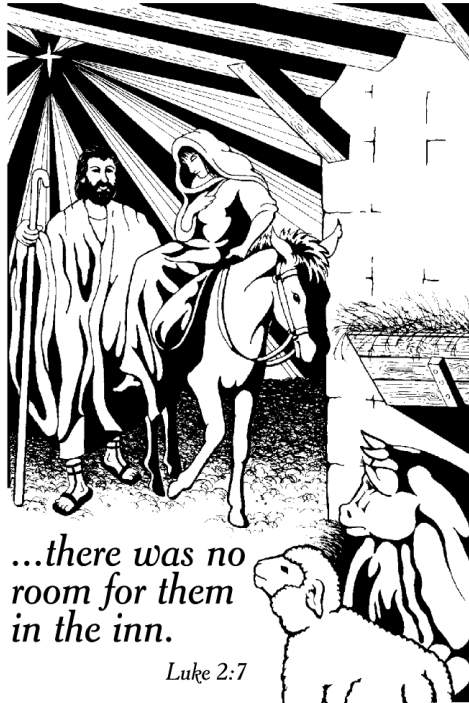


**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2020 7:00 p.m.**



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
***'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL.'***



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

***'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'***

Rev. Thomas A. Rhodes, Pastor

PO Box 5 • 600 East Aldrich Road • Bolivar, MO 65613

Phone: 417-326-5506 • [www.zionlutheranbolivar.org](http://www.zionlutheranbolivar.org)

[zionbolivar@windstream.net](mailto:zionbolivar@windstream.net)

Administrative Assistant – Sonya Gorman



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod

You are invited to use the yellow Prayer Cards located in the pew for prayer requests. Please hand this card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

*\* Please turn off cellphones \**



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2020 7:00 p.m.

## + INVOCATION +

*Stand*

**P** We begin in the name into which we are baptized; In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Matthew 28:19b;[18:20]*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke,  
the second chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*Luke 2:25a, 27-34a, 36-38*

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called  
Simeon, who was righteous and devout...

27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple  
courts. When the parents brought in the child  
Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law  
required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and  
praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you  
may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31  
which you have prepared in the sight of all  
nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

33 The child’s father and mother marveled at  
what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon  
blessed them...

36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Sit*

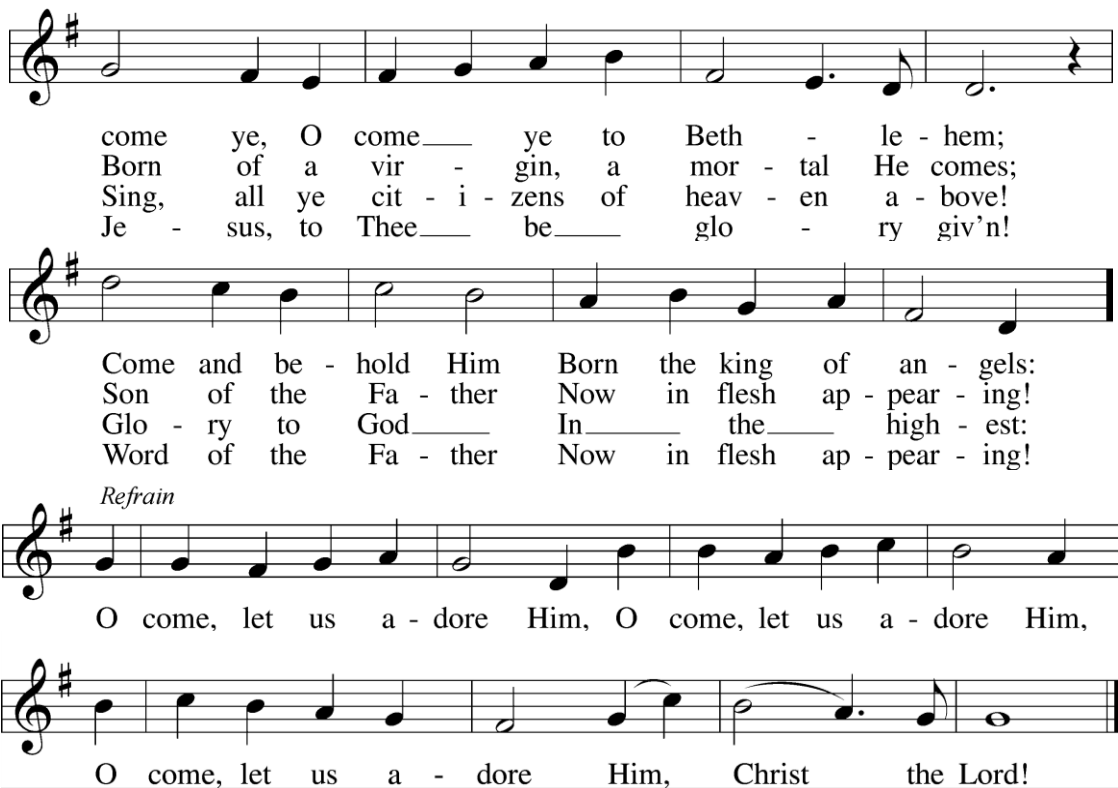
*Opening Hymn*

*LSB 379 sts. 1-4*

*“O Come All Ye Faithful”*



1	O	come,	all	ye	faith - ful,	Joy - ful	and	tri - um - phant! O
2	High	- est,	most	ho - ly,	Light	of	Light	e - ter - nal,
3	Sing,	choirs	of	an - gels,	Sing	in	ex - ul - ta - tion,	
4	Yea,	Lord,	we	greet	Thee,	Born	this	hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

*Stand*

**+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

**[P]** None of us is worthy to come near to God on our own merits; on this day, however, we rejoice that God has come to us as Immanuel – *God with us*. The angel promised Joseph that "*He will save His people from their sins*" which is what

our gracious Lord has come to earth and done. We therefore go to His throne, confessing our sins, confident of His mercy and forgiveness and His guiding us to faithful actions each day.

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

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
**C** we confess that we have not acknowledged Your presence with us each day. We have thought, spoken, and acted as though You were a God far away from us. But on this night Your Word reveals to us Your incarnate presence with us, to offer us love, mercy, guidance, and hope. Forgive us good Lord for our filthy sin. Strengthen our faith that we may live and daily act in this world as redeemed brothers and sisters of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. *LSB 292*

**C** Amen.

**P** Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**C** Yes. *LSB 293*

**P** Let it be done for you as you believe.

**P** John (*1 John 4:9b*) wrote, "*God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.*" Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**P C** Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Amen! *Jeremiah 33:11*

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

**P** Advent is past, Christmas has come. We light the Christ Candle to remind us that Jesus said,

**C** “I am the light of the world; whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” *John 8:12*

**P** We also remember that Simeon called the Christ Child “a light to lighten the Gentiles.”

*Luke 2:32, adapted*

**C** With the Paschal Candle burning to symbolize the Lord’s presence, we worship Him, who is now with us, our newborn King.

**P** Jesus is born!

**C** Let us rejoice!

*Sit*

*Hymn*

*LSB 366 sts. 1-4*

*“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”*



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.  
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.





“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,  
Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an - cient prom - ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
And ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

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**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** And my mouth will declare Your praise.

*Psalms 51:15*

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** Make haste to help me, O Lord. *Psalms 70:1*

**P C** 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.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ, King who comes  
to save us.

# Hymn

LSB 364 sts. 1-3

## “Away in a Manger”



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,  
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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## Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

**C** Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may, with sure confidence, behold Him when He comes to be our Judge:

**P** who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Hymn*

*LSB 368 sts. 1-3*

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.





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+ **WORD** +

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,

11 “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Epistle Reading**

*1 John 4:7-16*

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son

to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:1-20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to his own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the

town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## **Responsory**

**A** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**A** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**A** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

*Sit*

*“What Child Is This”*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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**Sermon**

**“Anna”**

**Pastor Tom Rhodes**

*Stand*

**Apostles' Creed**

*LSB 192*

**☐ ☑ 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.**

## **We Return to God Our Offerings**

*In quiet devotion and responding in personal stewardship of God's abundant provision to you, please use the offering plates in the back as you enter or exit. (This is just as it says: An offering to God through His church. As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!)*

## Offertory (No Intro)

LSB 384 st. 1

### *“Of the Father's Love Begotten”*

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -'. The second staff continues: 'gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,'. The third staff: 'He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that'. The fourth staff: 'have been, And that fu - ture years shall see'. The fifth staff: 'Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.' The score ends with a double bar line.

## Kyrie

Mark 10:47, LSB 186

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -'. The second staff continues: 'on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.' The score ends with a double bar line.

## + PRAYER +

### **Prayer of God's People**

**P** God entered human history as IMMANUEL so that we might live as His children in eternal communion with Him. For the Church gathered around Word and Sacrament ministry, that the action of our lives reflect the Gospel we proclaim, and for all who still walk in darkness, that they come to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** O IMMANUEL, God with us, hear our prayer.

**P** For leaders of world nations, that they use every opportunity to increase peace in their borders and beyond, advocating for life and human dignity for all; for the coming year, that it be a time of greater peace and joy; and for all whom God has blessed with creative and diverse talents that they use them to God's glory, let us pray to the Lord.

**C O IMMANUEL, God with us, hear our prayer.**

**P** For the men and women of our armed forces and all those who respond in emergencies, that God would protect and guide them; for those who are sick or in pain, that IMMANUEL would grant health according to His good will; for all who live in broken homes or residential care, that our Lord would surround them with faithful care givers; and for all who face this day alone, that they might know God's presence is with them, let us pray to the Lord.

**C O IMMANUEL, God with us, hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ who is IMMANUEL.

**C Amen.**

# Lighting of Candles

*(During the following hymn, the worship assistants will come down with their candles lit from the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. Please share the light with the next person in your pew by allowing them to dip their candle into your light. Care must be taken not to tip a lit candle as it might drip wax on clothing or skin.)*

Hymn

LSB 361 sts. 1-4

## “O Little Town of Bethlehem”



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;





The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13, LSB 227*

**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.

# Hymn

LSB 363 sts. 1-3

## “Silent Night, Holy Night”



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - dant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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## Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 212

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**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** Amen.

## Extinguish Candles

*Closing Hymn*

*LSB 387 sts. 1-4*

### *“Joy to the World”*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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