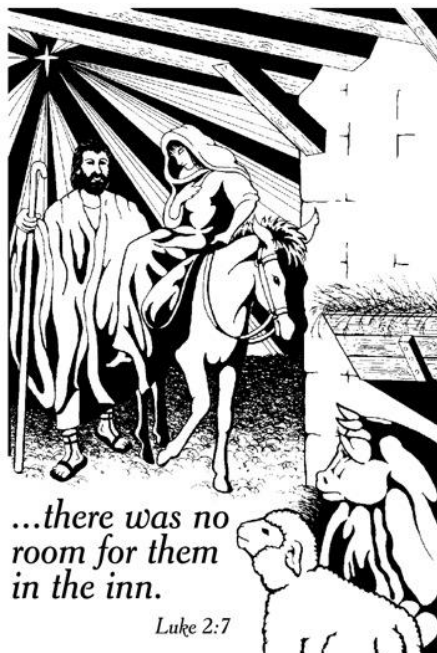


**Christmas Eve
Vespers - Candlelight Service
December 24, 2021 7:00 p.m.**



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



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

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Administrative Assistant – Sonya Gorman



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

** Please turn off cellphones **



PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve

The exact date of the birth of Jesus is not known, and during the earliest centuries of the Church, it seemed to have little significance. This followed the Early Church's tradition of honoring and celebrating a Christian's death as his or her birth date into eternity and the ongoing presence of Jesus. Likewise the life, work, death, and resurrection of Christ was of much greater importance to early Christians than the earthly details of His life. The earliest nativity feast, Epiphany (January 6), celebrated both the birth and

Baptism, of Christ. However, in the fourth century great Christological controversies that questioned Christ's divinity and humanity raged throughout Christianity. By AD 336, December 25 had been established in Rome as the celebration of Christ's birth, a festival welcomed particularly by orthodox Christians in the West. From Rome, Christ's natal festival spread throughout the Western Church. In Eastern traditions of the Church, Epiphany remains the principal celebration of the birth of Jesus.

*(A special thank you to Aby Kaufmann for
tonight's musical offering!)*

Stand

(Please turn and face the Processional Cross as it enters)

Christmas Eve
Vespers - Candlelight Service
December 24, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Invocation

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 God Himself is present:

C Let us now adore Him and with awe appear before Him.

P God is in His temple;

C All within keep silence; humbly kneel in deepest reverence.

LSB 907, adapted

P God is with us.

C Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

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

Processional Hymn

LSB 368 sts. 1-3

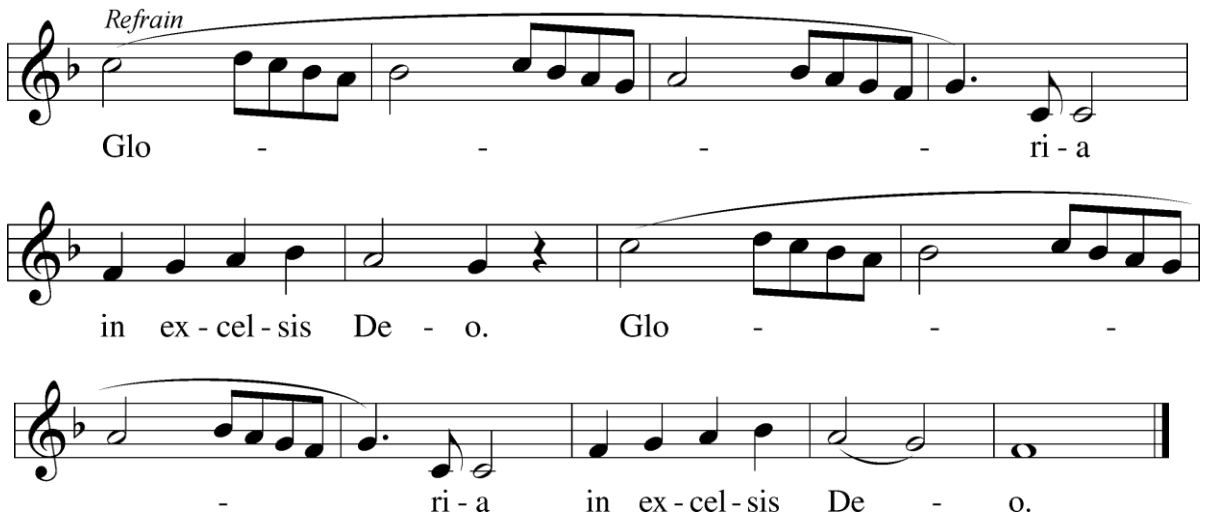
"Angels We Have Heard on High"



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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Lighting of the Advent Wreath - *The Fifth Candle*

P The fifth candle on our Advent wreath tells us that Christ is now among us. As the light of this candle begins this night and stays with us through Christ's ascension, we're reminded of His earthly presence and ministry that has brought to us the Light of Life. We pray:

C O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus, who is the Scepter of Israel; the Light of the Gentiles; the Sun of Righteousness; and the Lawgiver, Priest, Judge, and King. Grant us to know Your Light on earth and may we also come to the fullness of Your joys in heaven. Amen.

Sit

Hymn

LSB 370 sts. 1-3

“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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+ 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 humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

LSB 384 sts. 1-5

“Of The Father’s Love Begotten”



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -

2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,

3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with

4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His

△5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



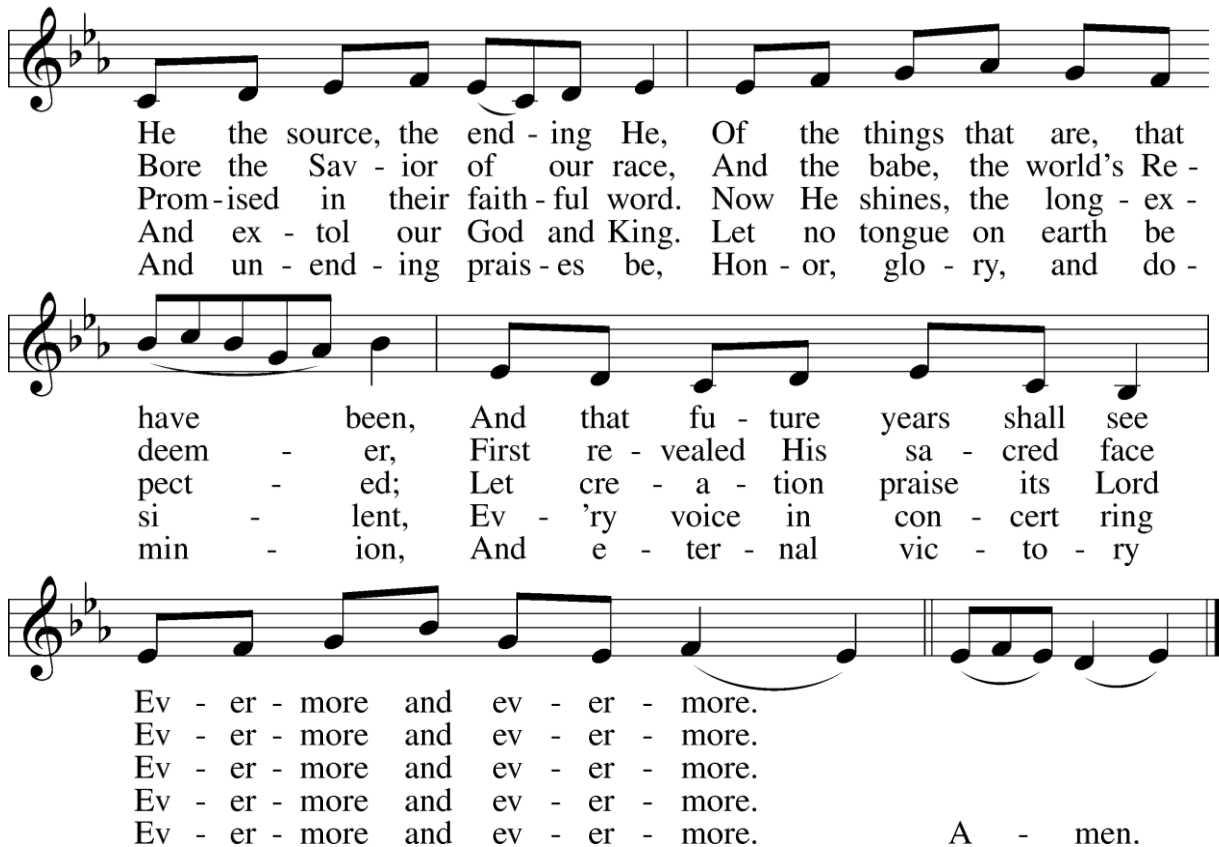
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,

full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,

one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets

prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him

Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

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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 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: 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 them and they 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 them.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

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,



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Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to

take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”- which means “God with us”. 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Sit

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
play, 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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Responsory

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P In His Days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P Glory be to the Father and to the ✠ Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

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 - gra - cious 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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Sermon

“Timing is Everything”

Pastor Tom Rhodes

Offering - *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!) (Please find the red pew pad and record your fellowship with us)*

Stand

Antiphon

Ps. 141:2, LSB 231

P Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Kyrie (*spoken in unison*)

LSB 233

**☐ ☐ Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Prayers

☐ As once the night shone with the brightness of the one, true Light, enlighten our hearts this night, that rejoicing in the birth of our Savior we may approach Your throne of grace with courage and confidence, praying on behalf of ourselves and for all people as they have need.

Brief silence

P Father, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as a tiny child to forgive our sin.

C Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P Jesus, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us, You gave up heaven to live on earth as one of us, one with us, to forgive our sin.

C Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P Holy Spirit, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism and nourishing us year ‘round through the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

C Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P Gracious God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we commend all our cares and concerns for others into Your mercy. Grant to them grace sufficient to preserve them in the day of trouble, and provide for them, according to Your will, healing and comfort for all their needs of body and soul. We pray to You especially on behalf of those on our prayer list and cards and also those we name in our hearts. Grant to them strength, that they may not lose heart or grow weary under the strain of affliction, but rejoice in Your comfort and peace.

All these things we pray You, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your own Son, whom You have made known to us in the mystery

of the Word made flesh, who has fulfilled all the Law and the prophets and delivered us to You as Your own people through the blood of the everlasting covenant, that we may do what is good and right and pleasing in Your sight. To You be all glory and honor, worship and praise, now and forevermore.

C Amen.

(During the following musical offering performed by Aby Kaufmann, 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.)

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

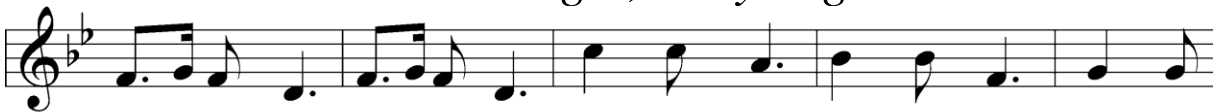
P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Public domain

Benedicamus

LSB 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

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