Zíon Lutheran Church

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December 21, 2025



God with Us ... and His Name Is Jesus

Zion Lutheran Church

Sundays with Zion

Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Hour 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21, 2025

Please observe a few minutes of quiet time as you prepare for worship. We invite you to *pray* and read the *Scriptures* for the day.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER TODAY (Please see "Words to prepare our hearts and lives" on page 15)

ALL WORSHIPERS are asked to please fill out the information sheet in the bulletin. Before we begin, you are also invited to pray and to read the Scripture for today's worship.

WE LOVE OUR KIDS ... We love to have them in the service with us, but if your child needs a break, we do have a "cry room" in the entry way of the church.

A PRAYER AS WE GATHER

O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as You gather us together to worship You in spirit and in truth, prepare us to receive the preaching of Your Word and all Your life-giving gifts such that we would repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Rescuer, and grow in caring service for all. Hear us for His sake. Amen.

As We Gather

People have dreams of aspiring to greatness or achievement—a championship, a stellar vocation, a vacation, or a visit with a famous person. Joseph probably had a dream to have a nice little Jewish family. And yet, his dream seemed to be shattered with the news Mary delivered--she was pregnant—and with a story of her carrying the Savior. No wonder Joseph needed to get some sleep---and have another dream---a dream beyond his imagination.



God with Us ... and His Name Is Jesus

₩ PREPARATION ₩

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the

■ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Pastor:

People: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Matt.1:21-23; Phil.2:10; Ps.119:105

Pastor

Beloved in the Lord, this wreath and the candles have been progressively lit each week reminding us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. In this final week of the Advent season, we come to know the meaning and power of our Savior's name. The angel spoke to Joseph, "She will bear a son, and you shall call His

name Jesus.

for He will save His people from their sins." People:

Pastor: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

People: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His

name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Pastor: Let us pray.

> Lord Jesus, Savior and King, the true light who comes into this world, bless us as we light this candle in the beginning of our preparation for Your coming. Enter our hearts and minds with the light of Your love that we may welcome and receive You with joy as true and eternal King; for You live and reign with

the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

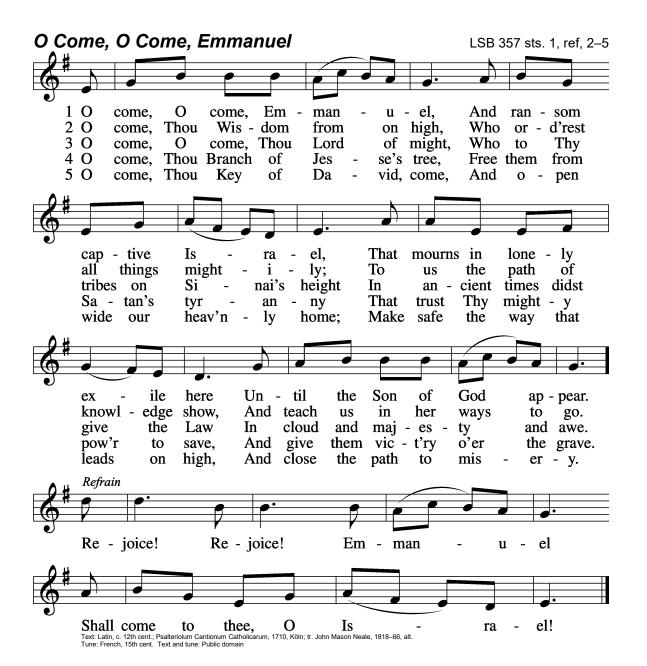
People: Amen.

Pastor: At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, People: in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Pastor: Your word is a lamp to my feet

People: and a light to my path.

All four candles are lit.



Confession and Absolution

Pastor: We pray for You to come to us, Lord Jesus. Even as we prepare to receive and welcome You, we continue to sin against You.

Silence for meditation

Pastor: We confess,

People: we have not loved You the way we ought, and have sinned against You

in our words and actions, and have not done what You command.

Pastor: We know the name above all names, the name of Jesus, which means "The

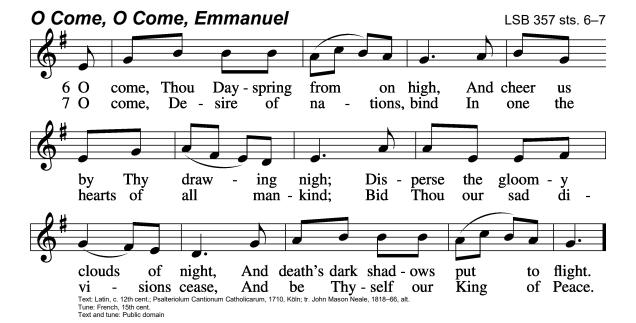
Lord saves," and Immanuel, "God is with us." Yet so often we do not call upon

Your name in time of trouble.

People: We have misused Your name and have not called upon Your name as we

should to pray, praise, and give thanks.

Pastor: With repentant hearts, we ask You to come, Lord Jesus.



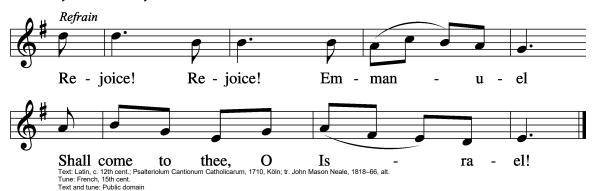
Pastor:

God has heard our prayer. God is with us, and Jesus Christ is in our midst as He promised. By His death and resurrection, He forgives our sins and opens the gates of heaven to us. By our Baptism, we have been given new life as children of God. At the command and promise of Immanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ, as a called and ordained servant of the Word and in the stead and by the command of Christ, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the *\mathbb{P} Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

₩ WORD ₩

Introit

Psalm 130:5-8; antiphon Isaiah 64:1

Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

And He will redeem Israel* from all his iniquities.

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.

Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,* that the mountains might quake at Your presence.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

Immanuel, we praise You for being God with us since creation. We thank You for being God with us as the Word made flesh. We thank You for being God with us in all eternity. We ask You to be with us now in Your Word, Your Sacrament, and with the fellowship of this Body of Christ. In Your gracious saving name we pray, as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the

dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Children are invited to the front for a brief teaching especially for them.

Holy Gospel Matthew 1:18–25

(Joseph is told of the coming birth of Jesus and the name He shall be given.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

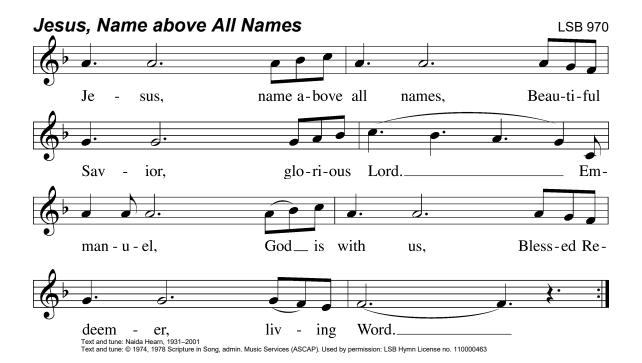
Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ. the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds. God of God. Light of Light. very God of very God. begotten, not made. being of one substance with the Father. by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.



Message

"Your Dreams Have Come True"

Pastor Russ Hess

Offering

Please leave a yellow information sheet for your household in the plate with any offerings you may have as an act of worship in response to Christ's abundant kindness toward us.

(You can also click on the Online Giving button at ZionLutheranNH.org to set up one-time or recurring payments when you are at home or even now in worship, which may take you only 2 minutes)

The Everlasting Love of God

How vast the everlasting love of God How sure and faithful as the morning This love so great for us could never fail Nor end for it had no beginning

How strong the Father's beating heart for us What mercy runs to meet the sinner As rivers yearn to reach the lowest place His grace shall flow to me forever

Chorus

Oh the everlasting love of God It shall ever be my song So immense and free more than life to me The everlasting love of God

How great and precious my Redeemer's blood How pure the passion of the Savior My sins are drowned beneath this mighty flood My soul is swept away with wonder *Chorus*

How deep the measure of the Spirit's work Who dwells in us who seals the promise God's love through time and all eternity Shall stand and we shall stand upon it What now could separate us from it. *Chorus*

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Stand

Prayer of the Church

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people

according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, we pray for the Church, that we who call Jesus Lord would, by our words and our deeds, boldly witness to His presence and

power among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: be with us and hear us.

Leader: We pray for the nations of this world and our nation, that peace and

goodwill be had not just for a season but would prevail among us as a

sign of Your abiding presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: be with us and give us peace.

Leader: We lift up before You all who suffer in poverty and want. May deeds of

mercy and compassion begun this season extend throughout all our days. Use us to meet the needs of our neighbors and all in need. Lord, in Your

mercy,

People: be with us and give us peace.

Leader: We pray for this congregation, that we may shine as a light of Your love to

this community and beyond as a sign of Your presence. We pray for those who are lonely and for those who are ill, [especially . . .]. Lord, in

Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer, and use us to make Your presence known to them.

Be with us and give us peace.

Leader: Gracious God, may your blessing be upon our Call Committee as they

seek your wisdom and guidance in their work of looking at possible candidates to call and serve as Zion's next Pastor. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: be with us and hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all who rejoice with family and friends in the week to come.

Grant safety to all who travel. In the midst of many things, may the Good News of Jesus sent and born for us be at the heart of our celebrations. May the love in our homes be signs of Your presence and care for us.

Lord, in Your mercy,

People: be with us and hear our prayer.

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in

Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Immanuel, our Lord.

People: Amen.

▼ SACRAMENT ▼

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts. Colossians 3:1

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Psalm 136

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

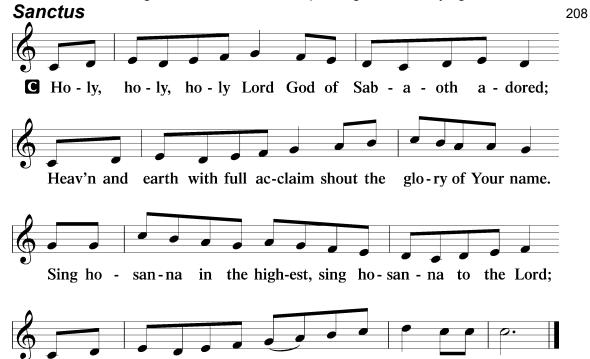
Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should praise Your holy name,

O Lord, our God, for You were born to us, Immanuel, to be God with us. You are God with us, who are the Body of Christ gathered in worship, and

2 Timothy 4:22

You are God with us in Your Word and Sacrament. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

blest

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord, for You have come to Your people to be with us in mercy, love, truth, and grace. You are God in the very beginning, You are God in Your unchanging and perfect Word of truth, and You are God with us at Your birth and in Your death. Be with us now as we humbly receive this true body and blood given and shed for us as You come to us now in, with, and under bread and wine.

in

is He who comes

the name of the Lord!

People: Amen.

Tru - lv

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My № body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My № blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death

1 Cor. 11:26

until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Rev.22:20

Pastor:

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

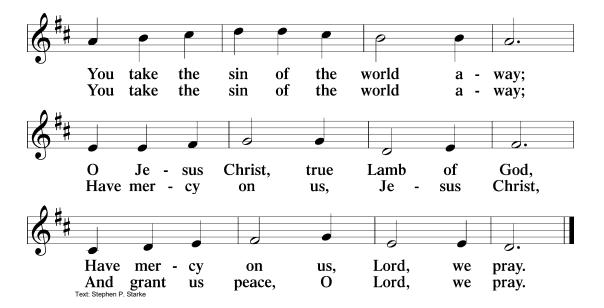
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Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.



13



Sit

Distribution

Words to prepare our hearts and lives

The Lord's Supper is a wonderful means of grace given to us by God. Christ gives His body and blood to forgive sins, renew faith, and cause us to grow in His love and service. We also remember and praise God for the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf on the cross. Out of pastoral concern and care and taking to heart the word in 1 Corinthians 11:36, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup," before receiving this means of God's grace properly we should positively answer the following:

- Do I need forgiveness for sin?
- Do I believe in Christ as my Savior and have been Baptized?
- Do I believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine?
- Do I desire to turn from sin and live for God and others in love and service?

If you are unsure or desire to learn more about what it means to take the Lord's Supper, please speak with an elder or pastor before or after the service. Those not partaking of the Lord's Supper, including children, are invited to come forward with arms folded across the chest to receive a blessing Grape juice is available in the center of the serving tray God's Blessings!

Prayer before Communing

O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make me ready to receive the most holy Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

After Receiving Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving Body and Blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths feasted on this holy meal, we may by faith obtain and forever enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, eternal life in Christ, and unity with one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

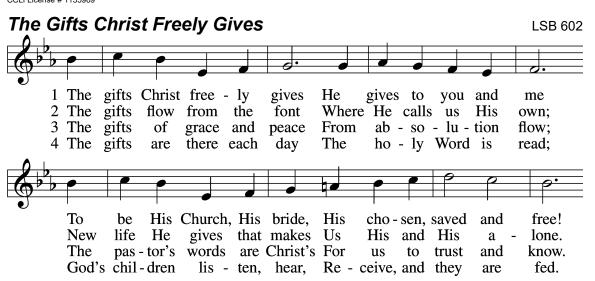
Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, through-out the heavens There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled When Io, above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born; And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

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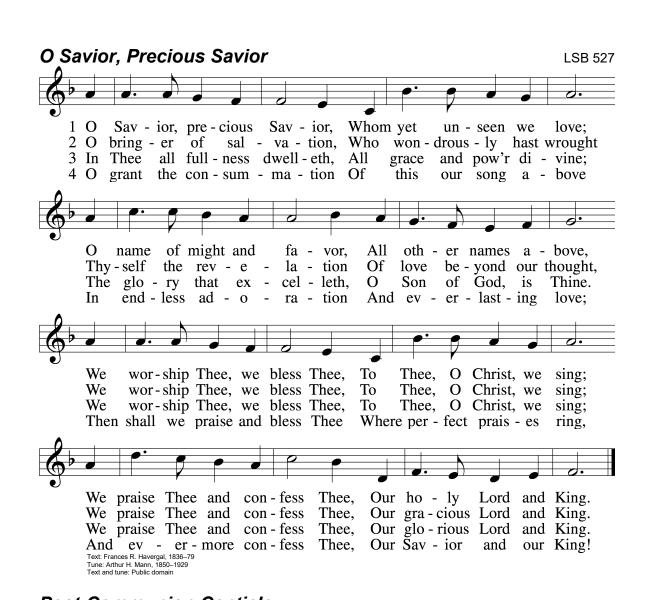
Saints blest with these rich gifts Here He for-gives our sins For - give-ness that we need Christ fills them with Him - self, Are chil-dren who pro-claim With wa-ter and His Word; Is grant-ed to us there; Blest words that give them life,



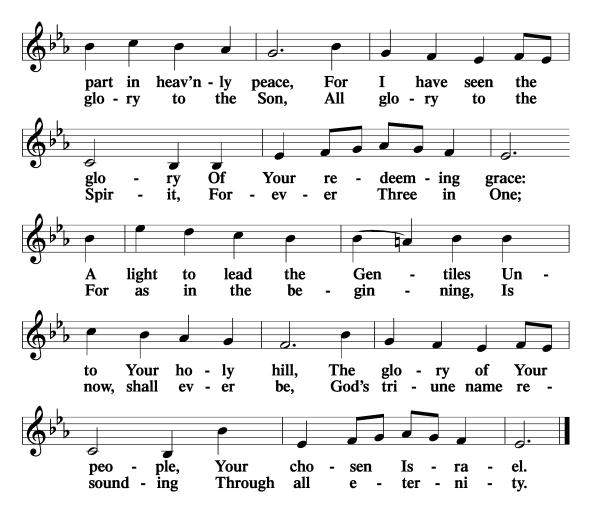
That they were won by Christ And cling His to strong name. Gives pow'r to The tri - une God Him-self call Him Lord. mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest The Lord of care. Re - stor - ing re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife. and

- 5 The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see; Beneath the bread and wine Is food from Calvary. The body and the blood Remove our ev'ry sin; We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.
- 6 All glory to the One
 Who lavishes such love;
 The triune God in love
 Assures our life above.
 His means of grace for us
 Are gifts He loves to give;
 All thanks and praise for His
 Great love by which we live!

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Pastor: We give You thanks, Immanuel, that You have refreshed us through the gift of Your presence. You are God with us in worship and in our daily lives as we depart from this place. Empower us with the peace of Your eternal presence. Increase our joy as we receive and welcome You born for us and with us as Savior and King. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction Matthew 1:21, 23

Pastor: "She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

People: for He will save His people from their sins."

Pastor: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

People: and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

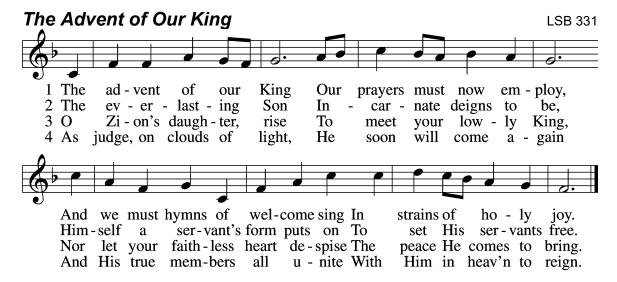
Pastor: God is with us. He will bless you and keep you. He will make His face shine

upon you and be gracious to you. He will look upon you with favor and ₮ grant

you peace.

Now go in peace with God. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God with us. Amen.



- 5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.
- D 6 All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever one

Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
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◆The VISION of Zion Lutheran Church ◆

In response to God's amazing grace and love Zion Lutheran Church is a place of refuge where children, youth and adults are:

GROUNDED in God's unchanging Word,

REACHING OUT with the Good News of Jesus Christ locally and globally,

ACCEPTING others in the same loving way God has accepted us,

CHANGING into committed Christ followers, and EMPOWERED to be Christ's hands and feet joyfully serving others.

Our Core Values

We Believe:

- ♦ We are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2: 8-9; Rom. 3:22-24; Titus 3:4-7)
- ◆ Jesus is the Way, the Truth & the Life! No one comes to the Father except through Him! (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- ◆ Scripture is the Word of God. It is without error and our only source for life and faith! (2 Tim. 3:16; John 20:31; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- ♦ Baptism & the Lord's Supper are the means by which God touches our lives with His grace. (Rom 6:1-7; 1 Peter 3:21; Matt 26:26-28; 1 Cor 11:23-26)
- ♦ God has chosen us to proclaim the Gospel to our community and world. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15)
- ♦ In the power of God working through the Holy Spirit & Prayer. (John 14:26; Acts 4:31; Mark 11:24; Phil 4:6-7)
- ♦ We desire to remain a loving (1Cor 13; 1John 4:7-11), caring family of God.
- We cherish our Lutheran heritage.