

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025



Zion Lutheran Church

23167 Topeka Street

Vassar, KS 66543

785-828-4482

www.ZionVassar.org

Growing Together in Christ's Love and Grace

Let us know you're here!

Visitors: Scan the QR code

- or -

TXT the Keyword CONNECT
to **785-828-4482** to fill out a
simple online form or
submit a prayer request.



Members: TXT "CHECK" to Check-In.

Thank You!

+ WELCOME – AS WE GATHER +

(Stand)

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

+ INVOCATION +

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

+ SERVICE OF LIGHT +

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P All those who await His appearance pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P The whole creation pleads:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

(Sit)

(During the singing of the hymn, the third candle on the Advent wreath is lighted – JOY.)

+ PREPARATION +

398 HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
 To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
 From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
 Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
 And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

**Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.**

I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.

**My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.**

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

**O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

LSB 204



They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

- P** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
- C** Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
- P** Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



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

Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "How John the Baptist Helped Jesus"

737 REJOICE, MY HEART, BE GLAD AND SING



1 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing, A
2 He is your trea - sure, He your joy, Your
3 Why spend the day in blank de - spair, In
4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard



cheer - ful trust main - tain; For God, the source of
life and light and Lord, Your coun - sel - or when
rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor
ev - 'ry child - hood day? And did He not in



ev - 'ry - thing, Your por - tion shall re - main.
doubts an - noy, Your shield and great re - ward.
cast your care; He makes your bur - dens light.
threat - 'ning hour Turn dread - ed ills a - way?

5 He only will with patience chide,
His rod falls gently down;
And all your sins He casts aside
In ocean depths to drown.

6 His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain
A blessèd ending makes.

7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand
Here and in heav'n above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.

Tune: Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz, 1738, Frankfurt

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON: "When Doubt Meets Joy in Faith"

(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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P ... let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. . . .

...

P ... through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Sit)

OFFERING

Members simply text the word **CHECK** to **785-828-4482** then click & submit online to **Check In** for attendance during the day. Or please complete the **"Let's Connect" Card** in the pews with your Name(s), email, and phone and hand to the ushers as they are returning from the altar. **VISITORS**, please hold your card to give to Pastor at the door and receive a 'Thank You' Gift.

(Stand)

P In confidence as children of the Father, we pray as the Son has taught us...

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(Stand)

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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.

(Sit)

345 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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IN OUR PRAYERS

HEALING AND CARE: for those suffering from cancer: Stu Duncan, Jenny Peimann, Dan Henderson, Sheri Bravenec, Frank Wagner, Barbara Feltner, Tom Arb, Sharon Eilert (Eva's sister), JoAnn Arb.

CONTINUED HEALING: Christopher Smith, Gabriella Schultz, Michael Nally, Charlie Timberlane, Logan Brady, Jean Curtis, Carl Sluder, Raymond Zorn, Lyn Wren, David Wagner, Cecil McMullen, Mark Feltner, Darrell Sturdy, Diane Schulze, Keith Scheid, Pete Scheid, Glenn Templeton, Harley Browning, Ruby Zorn, George Phoenix Lavon Haney.

SHUT-INS: Don Becker, Virginia Elmore, Jim & Pat Croucher

NOTE: Please pick up your mail and clear your Mail Slot Today!
(and take your Bulletin(s) WITH you)



Watch Party starts January 3, 2026!

We return to watching the 8 episodes for the next season of The CHOSEN series on *Saturdays, 4:30 – 6:00 pm*, right here in our own Fellowship Hall at Zion. We will lead up to the movie with reading the Scripture that will be used in the episode, then WATCH, then have a discussion.

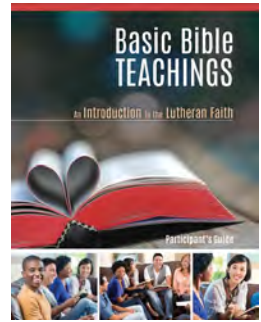
Bring a friend!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME to all who worship with us this morning, especially our guests. You are invited for coffee and snacks after our service. You are also invited to stay for Bible Study and Sunday School.

I.F.B. Investigating Faith Basics – we are starting a course for ALL members and especially those who would like to become members. “Basic Bible Teachings” will be the workbook – bring yours if you have one already, and plan to take notes! Lots of lively discussion is encouraged as we learn from each other.

The plan is for another 4 sessions, following the worship service.



POINSETTIAS: You may bring Poinsettias for decorating the church and place them in the Fellowship Hall.

Looking for a Christian Gift?

Link your **ChristianBook.com** accounts to ZION by texting GIVEBACK to **95498**, and registering with our Organization ID: **JUQBBF**. Once linked, every eligible purchase you make will earn 4% cash back for ZION-Vassar.



Online/Electronic Giving – Coming in January 2026



Zion Lutheran Church will be implementing eGiving (including “Text-to-Give”) at the start of 2026 as an option for making your contributions. This will also allow for Recurring Giving, to simplify your regular offering.

Details coming soon! Watch for an email from ChurchTeams.

Christmas Cards to be signed... We will be sending Christmas Cards to some of shut-ins and visitors. It would be a blessing if you could sign the cards in the Fellowship Hall before we send them out on Dec. 16.

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Serving In Worship Today

<i>Greeters</i>	Loren & Liz Eissler
<i>Organist</i>	Tanya Fraker
<i>Acolyte</i>	Phillip Wendling
<i>Reader</i>	Marvin Zorn
<i>Ushers</i>	Lynn Silver ©, Clint Sturdy © Clint Silver, Loren Eissler
<i>Elder</i>	Braeden Murphy

Serving Next Week

<i>Greeters</i>	Larry & Toni Wendling
<i>Organist</i>	Tanya Fraker
<i>Acolyte</i>	Loren Eissler
<i>Reader</i>	Mathew Anschutz
<i>Ushers</i>	Marvin Zorn ©, Clint Silver © Jeff Heidenreich, _____
<i>Elder</i>	Braeden Murphy
<i>Lay Assistants</i>	Larry Wendling**, Mathew Anschutz

Record of Faithfulness

Attendance Last Sunday: 64

Offering on Wed. 12/03... \$100

Grace Fund on 12/3...\$160

Offering Last Sunday: \$3540 (Needed weekly = \$3193)

Building Fund Last Sunday: \$520

NOTE TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS

We are very glad you are here! Our services may look and sound different (other worldly, perhaps), but please bear with us! We worship the way we do for a reason and there is a certain rhythm involved. We gather to receive the gifts of salvation our Living Triune God comes to serve through His Word and Sacrament. In these gifts we receive the enlivening of our faith, forgiveness from our sins, and life eternal. Worship is the unwrapping of these gifts. The liturgy, hymns, and preaching proclaim His Word to us. They remind us of the promise of salvation as a gift we have in our baptism, and they prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace God comes to serve us in this Divine Service, and so our worship is centered around receiving these gifts of God through faith.

Pastor Jim Kirschenmann

GV (314) 884-0828

Email: Pastor@ZionVassar.org

You may Call or TXT the Church Office Phone

Number at ANYTIME: **785-828-4482**

Email: Office@ZionVassar.org

Service Time: Sunday 9:00 am

Bible Study and Sunday School: 10:30 am

Services Streamed on Social Media...

<https://bit.ly/m/zionvassar>

Take this WITH you - Pass this bulletin along to someone and invite them...

TXT/Chat Questions 785-645-3755



Scan me