The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 21, 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 + + PREPARATION +

(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,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut 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 fourth candle on the Advent wreath is lighted – LOVE.)





- 1 Come, Thou long ex pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
- 2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art, By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart. By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

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

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

KYRIE LSB 204



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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Sit)

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."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

- P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
- 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.

EPISTLERomans 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.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1:18–25

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
- **G** 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.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "Joseph Listens to God and Helps Jesus"

900 JESUS! NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE



- 1 Je sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth er names a bove,
- 2 Je sus! Name de creed of old, To the maid-en moth-er told,
- 3 Je sus! Name of price less worth To the fall en of the earth 4 Je sus! Name of mer cy mild, Giv en to the ho ly Child



which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in Un - to deep hu - mil - i - ty. Kneel-ing low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el. in her gave, "Je sus shall His peo-ple save." For the prom - ise that it When the hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low. cup of

- Jesus! Only name that's giv'nUnder all the mighty heav'nWhereby those to sin enslavedBurst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above; Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON: "When Love Means Letting Go of Control"

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

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

→ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P ... let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy. . . .
- ... 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.

. . .

OFFERING

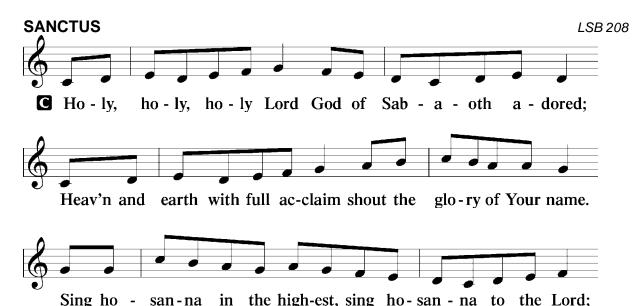
<u>Members</u> simply text the word <u>CHECK</u> to **785-828-4482** then click & submit online to **Check In** for attendance during the day. Or please complete the "**Let's Connect" Card** in the pews with your Name(s), email, and phone and hand to the ushers as they are returning from the altar. **VISITORS**,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

(Stand)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE LSB 208

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, . . .Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation . . . we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

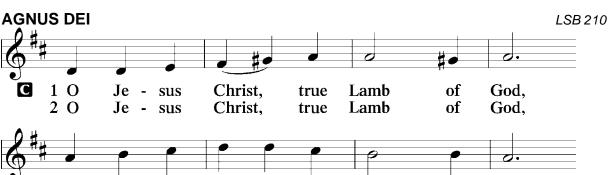
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

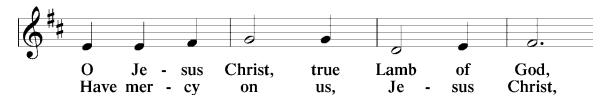
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



You take the sin of the world way; of You take the sin the world way;





Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

(The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive)

A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

Christ's Supper is a blessing to the individual and group at His table. In eating the bread and drinking the wine, our Lord gives into our mouths the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, a physical gift of Jesus' love and real presence in, with, and under the bread and the wine. The person is receiving the assurance that his/her sins are forgiven and is strengthened in the hope of eternal life with Christ. As in his or her baptism, the person is joined with Christ.

In this communion we are also joined with other Christians who share our beliefs. At the Lord's Table we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and by a community of people who profess the faith with the same understanding that is ours.

We ask that you speak to an elder or pastor before partaking of the Lord's Supper if there is a question about our practice. Ask an usher to direct you.

If you are not sure if your understanding of scripture matches that of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, you are welcome to come to the rail and receive a blessing. Signify as such by crossing your arms in front of you.

WHILE COMMUNING

- If you have difficulty walking to the altar, alert the ushers. The pastor and assistants will come to your pew to serve you.
- All are invited to receive the gifts. Please follow the directions of the Ushers/Elders to come forward.
- If kneeling is a challenge for you, please feel free to stand at the rail.
- If you are receiving communion, please slightly cup your hands to receive the host (Gluten-Free host is available in the center cup on the paten – if desired lift your hand to reach for the host from the center cup). Otherwise, please cross your forearms in front of your chest to receive a blessing.
- An optional Non-Alcoholic choice (lighter-color/rose) is available in the center of the tray of individual cups.
- If you are receiving from the common cup, please cross your hands to indicate so to the lay assistant with the individual cups. Once the assistant passes, please place your hand out to receive the common cup and help guide it to your mouth.

(In dismissing the communicants, the following or something similar is said:)

THE DISMISSAL

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

 → in peace.
- C Amen.

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +



- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Refrain
- O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to
 flight. Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain



- 5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course. Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
- 7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night. Darkness there no more resides: In this light faith now abides.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won. By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.
- $\triangle 8$ Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king, Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN



Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker,

1821-77

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 212

- **A** Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- C Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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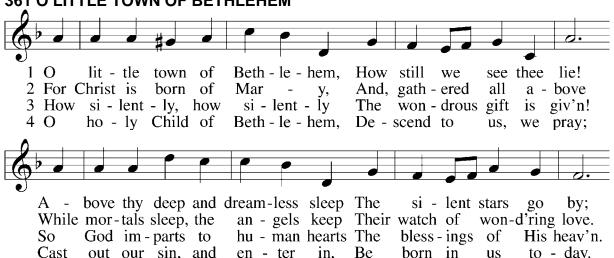
332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002205

Text (sts. 1-2) and tune: Public domain







Yet thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light. geth - er Pro - claim the morn-ing stars, ho - lv birth, to -No ear may hear this world of com - ing; But His in 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. sing to God the king And peace all And prais - es to the earth! Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in. a - bide with us, \mathbf{O} come to Our Lord Im-man-u-el! us,

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

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, Lavon Haney.

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

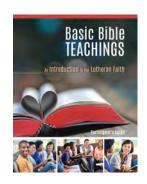
NOTE: Please pick up your mail and clear your Mail Slot Today! (and take your Bulletin(s) WITH you)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated this morning as we receive the Lord's Body and Blood. Fill out the "Let's Connect" card if participating. Please speak to the Pastor or an Elder if this is your first time to commune with us.

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.

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 HYMN SING (By Request) Sunday, December 28, 2025 9 am

We all have our FAVES, and this is a chance to make your requests and have everybody sing the ones YOU enjoy! Join us for this morning of song as we celebrate the First Sunday after Christmas... And bring your friends!!!



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!

EPIPHANY (Observed) January 4, 2026 (Christmas Decorations will be taken down following the service)

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Serving In Worship Today

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

Serving Christmas Day

| Greeters | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Organist | Tanya Fraker |
| Acolyte | Jeff Heidenreich |
| Reader | Pastor |
| Ushers | Lynn Silver ©, Loren Eissler © |
| | Shane Anschutz, |
| Elder | Braeden Murphy |
| Lay Assistants | Jeff Heidenreich**, Marvin Zorn |

Record of Faithfulness

Attendance Last Sunday: 58 Offering on Wed. 12/10... \$250

Grace Fund Last Sunday...\$25

Offering Last Sunday: \$2878 (Needed weekly = \$3193)

Building Fund Last Sunday: \$100

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

