

# Zion Lutheran Church

✝ Vassar ✝

## Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



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### Those Serving in Worship Today

**Elder:** Braeden Murphy

**Officiant:** Pr. James Kirschenmann

**Accompanist:** Tanya Fraker

## ***Welcome in the name of Christ Jesus to Zion!***

*We are glad that you could join us today. If today is your first time, we look forward to getting to know you better.*


*If you have any questions, please see the usher or a member of the ministry team.*

## ***Christmas Blessings to you and yours!***


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### **Hymn of Invocation**

LSB 379, "Oh 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!

## **Opening Litany**

- P** God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
- C** If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.
- P** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- C** He was in the world, the world that came into being through Him; Yet the world did not know Him. He came into the world, and his own did not receive Him.
- P** The Word became flesh and lived among us.
- C** We have seen His glory... Full of grace and truth.

### Service of the Word

#### Offering Hymn

LSB 365, "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 bright 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.

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Prayers of the Church

*Each petition will end with:*

**P** Lord in your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

## First Reading - Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned as fuel for the fire.

- 6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **The CHRISTMAS Story from...**

### **The Gospel According to St. Luke**

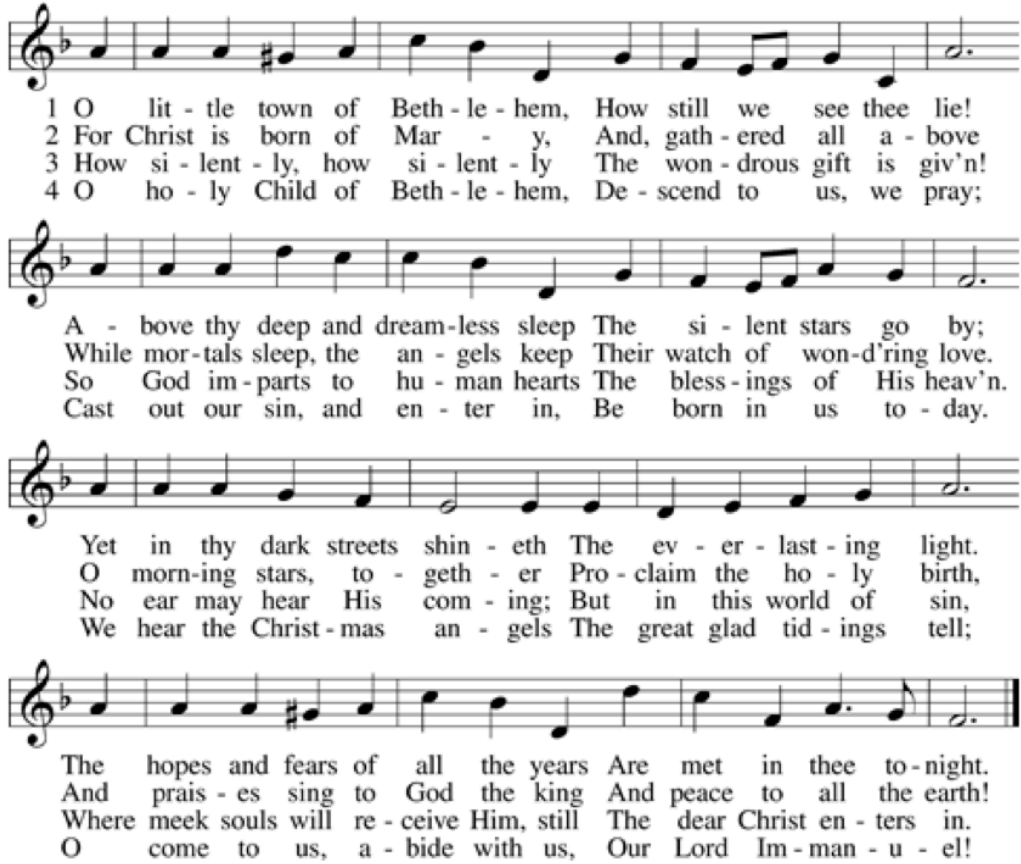
#### ***Love's Pure Light Beams Radiant with Hope***

##### **Reading - Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

# Hymn

## LSB 361, "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!

### *Love's Pure Light Beams Radiant with Truth*

#### Reading - Luke 2:8-12

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

## Hymn

“The First Noel”

### Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

### Refrain

Noel Noel Noel Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

### Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night

### Refrain

Noel Noel Noel Noel  
Born is the King of Israel



## Love's Pure Light Beams Radiant with Joy

### Reading - Luke 2:13-15

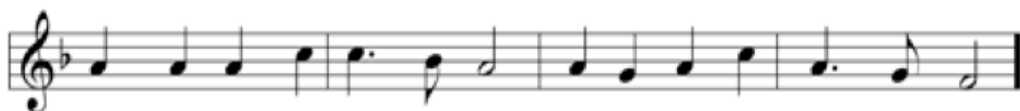
<sup>3</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

### Hymn

LSB 368, "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.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Love's Pure Light Beams Radiant with Peace

### Reading - Luke 2:16-20

<sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### + Choir Selection: See in Yonder Manger Low +

#### + Homily +

#### Candle Lighting

*As the light is passed throughout the congregation, do not tip the lighted candle.*

*Tip your **unlit** candle to receive light from the one already burning.*



#### Hymn

LSB 363, "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.

## Benediction

- P** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had seen and heard.
- C** Which were just as they had been told!
- P** If we walk in light, as He Himself is the light, we have fellowship with each other.
- C** And the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.
- P** Jesus is Born!
- C** Merry Christmas!

## Closing Hymn

LSB 387, "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.

# Zion Lutheran Church

(LCMS)

23167 Topeka Street

Vassar, KS 66543

785-828-4482

[www.ZionVassar.org](http://www.ZionVassar.org)



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You may also fill out the  
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**Thank You!**



Pastor Jim Kirschenmann

GV (314) 884-0828

Email: [Pastor@ZionVassar.org](mailto:Pastor@ZionVassar.org)

You may Call or TXT the Church Office Phone

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

Email: [Office@ZionVassar.org](mailto:Office@ZionVassar.org)

Service Time: Sunday 9:00 am

Bible Study and Sunday School:  
10:30 am

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