

The First Sunday After Christmas

December 28, 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!



Hymns

Lutheran Service Book, pages 357-393

Some Favorites:

Angels, from the Realms of Glory ... 367

Angels We Have Heard on High ... 368

Away in a Manger ... 364

Away in a Manger (Cradle Song) ... 365

Go, Tell It on the Mountain ... 388

Hark! the Hearld Angels Sing ... 380

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ... 393

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear ... 366

Joy to the World ... 387

O Come, All Ye Faithful ... 379

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ... 357

O Little Town of Bethlehem ... 361

Silent Night, Holy Night ... 363

What Child Is This? ... 370

IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS - AS WE GATHER

To the rest of the world, we are simply people with a different faith, but we have an identity that is unique: We are God's children, calling out to Him, "Abba! Father!" As He did with our forebears, we hear in the Old Testament Reading, He remembers His covenant. Even when danger threatens, as it did for the holy family, He is with us to protect and guide us. In fact, we are not only God's children; with Jesus, His only-begotten Son, we are also heirs of the promise, which He kept for us. That is merry news indeed!

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN (Request)

(Stand, as you are able and without pain)

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

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalms 111:1–6

P Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

C in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

P Great are the works of the LORD,

C studied by all who delight in them.

P Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

C and His righteousness endures forever.

P He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;

C the LORD is gracious and merciful.

P He provides food for those who fear Him;

C He remembers His covenant forever.

P He has shown His people the power of His works,

C in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

(Sit)

HYMN (Request)

PSALM

Psalm 111:7–10

- P** The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy;
- C** **they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- P** He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.
- C** **Holy and awesome is His name!**
- P** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
- C** **His praise endures forever!**

HYMN (Request)

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14

- P** O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, “the fullness of time,” that is not true in our personal lives.
- C** **Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands,
forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and
forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.**
- P** We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.
- C** **Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult
decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all
things for our own benefit.**
- P** We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.

C Forgive us for not giving Your leading us “a glorious name,” forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.

P Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, “Abba! Father!” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

INTROIT FOR CHRISTMAS 1

Jeremiah 31:15–17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1

C When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

A Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”
Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD,*
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.
There is hope for your future, declares the Lord,
and your children shall come back to their own country.”

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.

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

HYMN (Request)

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature.

C Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;

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

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”

And he became their Savior.

⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,
¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.
¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C Mighty God,

P Everlasting Father,

C Prince of Peace.

P Sing to the LORD a new song,

C for He has done marvelous things!

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

VERSE

Luke 2:30, 32

P Alleluia.

C **My eyes have seen Your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.**

P Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13–23

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

C **“Rise, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him.”**

P And he rose and took the child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet,

C **“Out of Egypt I called My son.”**

P Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

- C** “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”
- P** But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream
to Joseph in Egypt, saying,
- C** “Rise, take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for
those who sought the child’s life are dead.”
- P** And he rose and took the child and His mother and went to the land of
Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in
place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a
dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a
city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be
fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN (Request)

SERMON

HYMN (Request)

(Stand, as you are able and without pain)

CATECHISM

The Second Article

C I believe 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.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us go to our heavenly Father in prayer.

For the church, that the news of Christ's birth among us would bring joy to many people, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who have rebelled against all that our caring God has lavished upon them and that He would open their hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who have not heard about Jesus' birth, about our Savior's willingness to be a servant of the Most High, or about their own salvation, that God would surround them with people of faith and the Gospel Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who tend fields, raise animals, distribute food, or work in supermarkets and roadside stands, that they recognize that they work to alleviate hunger and do what pleases our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the leaders of the nations, those who bear arms, and all who run toward harm to help those who need aid and rescue, that they stop at nothing to establish and maintain peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those near and dear to us, [especially . . .], that God would alleviate suffering and pain, sadness and grief in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of our elder Brother and Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

HYMN (Request)

(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.

(Sit)

HYMN (Request)

HYMN (Request)

(Stand)

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.

CLOSING HYMN (Request)

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
C Thank be to God!

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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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.

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.

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!**



Next Sunday... EPIPHANY (Observed) January 4, 2026

(Christmas Decorations will be taken down following the service)

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Serving In Worship Today

<i>Greeters</i>	LaVonne Rindt & Joetta Asbury
<i>Organist</i>	Tanya Fraker
<i>Acolyte</i>	Emerson Monthey
<i>Reader</i>	Keifer Haney
<i>Ushers</i>	Clint Silver ©, Clint Sturdy © Reed Silver, Kelly Persinger
<i>Elder</i>	Braeden Murphy

Serving Next Week

<i>Greeters</i>	Marvin Zorn
<i>Organist</i>	Tanya Fraker
<i>Acolyte</i>	Emerson Monthey
<i>Reader</i>	Greg Schultz
<i>Ushers</i>	Shane Anschutz ©, Loren Eissler © Jeff Heidenreich, Clint Silver
<i>Elder</i>	Braeden Murphy
<i>Lay Assistants</i>	Delmer Haufler**, Keifer Haney

Record of Faithfulness

Attendance Last Sunday: 60

Offering on Wed. 12/17... \$275

Offering Last Sunday: \$2856.05 (Needed weekly = \$3193)

Building Fund Last Sunday: \$580

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



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