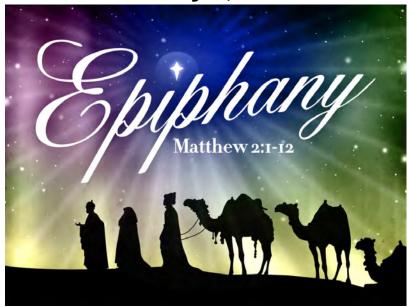
The Epiphany of Our Lord (Transferred) January 4, 2026





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 OR 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.

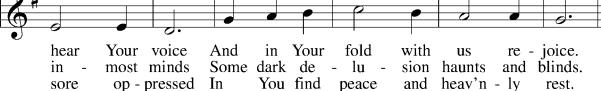
Thank You!

+ WELCOME - AS WE GATHER +

+ PREPARATION +

839 O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT





dore

And end - less

praise

to

a -

doubt - ing walk Con - firm the a part; weak and heart. You Bvall Your Church in earth and heav'n. be giv'n

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

thanks

Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg

d'ring

Text and tune: Public domain

won -

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

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- 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.

+ 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 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

Have mer - cy

You with the

on

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.



us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt

Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,

cry,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,

and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

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

GRADUAL Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
- For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
- P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!

EPISTLE Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that

through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



Alleluia. Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:1–12

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

(Sit)

397 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD



- 2 As with joy ful steps they sped, Sav ior, to Thy low ly bed,
- 3 As they of fered gifts most rare At Thy cra dle, rude and bare,
- 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
- 5 In the heav'n-ly coun try bright Need they no cre at ed light;



with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright; As bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore: may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy, And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at light, its joy, its crown, Thou sun which goes not down; Thou its its



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee. So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat. All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King. Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide. There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

(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. . . .

. . .

- who shattered this world's darkness with everlasting light, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Amen.

(Sit)

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 +

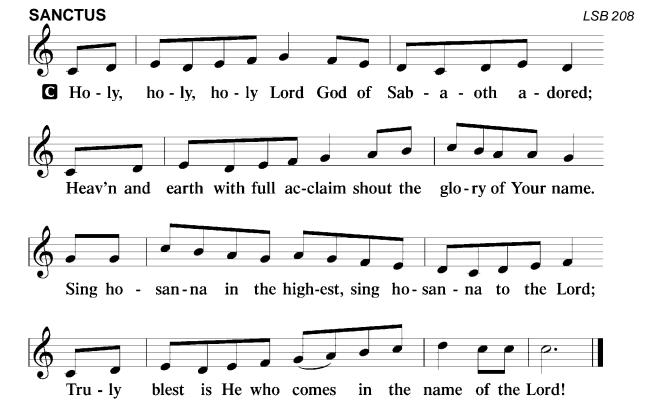
PREFACE LSB 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

- 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, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

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.



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 +



Text: Martin Opitz, 1597-1639; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899-1987, alt.

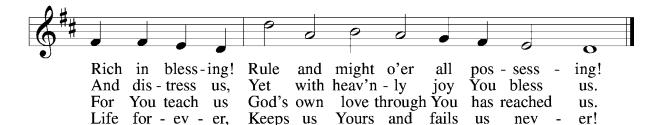
Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450-1517

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002205

Tune: Public domain

395 O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT 10 Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's 2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di - vine, And deep with - in 3 Lord, when You look on us in love. once there falls At might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us 4 Al when own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer cy! There light our hearts now shine; a flame un - dy ing! a - bove pur - est plea of from God Α ray sure. be - gun yet Was this old earth's foun - da tion! not Of Da-vid's son, Ja - cob's race, King Our Lord and mas bod - y be As liv - ing branch one In Your let us Spir - it, flesh and blood Your Word and Re - fresh our souls live in Him Your Son has ran - somed 118 in love To Our hearts You have won serve You ly! ter, to on Your life our lives sup - ply es of a tree. ing. our dear with heav'n-ly food. You est are trea sure! here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va tion.

Low - ly, ly! Great and glo-rious, All ho vic - to - rious, Now, though dai Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex ly and cheer us! Your mer Warm O draw near us! Let сy Al - le - lu Christ the liv - ing, giv - ing ia! To us



Olet the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

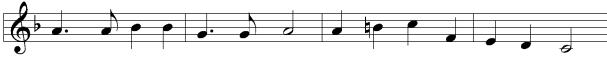
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Tune: Public domain

394 SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE



- 1 Songs of thank ful ness and praise, Je sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
- 2 Man i fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme; 3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
- 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres ent in Thy ho ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by sa - ges from a - far, the star To the at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest; Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell-ing all the dev - il's might; Christ will then like light - ning shine, All glo-rious sign; will see His Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou:



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem: Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine; Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill; All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear; That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.

And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 211



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.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.G 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.

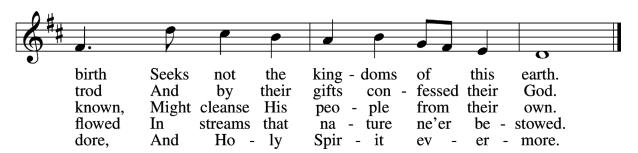
C Amen.

399 THE STAR PROCLAIMS THE KING IS HERE





His guid - ing led by light, on star: And. to light they in meek-ness stood He. of whom That no sin was spoke the word, red - dened in - to wine! He and forth it Je be Thee. Whom with the Fa - ther sus. to we a -



Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book (Confession from DSS 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 – Now Available



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!**



TODAY... De-Decorating the Church

(Christmas Decorations will be taken down following the service)

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Serving In Worship Today

Greeters	Marvin Zorn
Organist	Tanya Fraker
Acolyte	Emerson Monthey
Reader	Greg Schultz
Ushers	Shane Anschutz ©, Loren Eissler ©
	Jeff Heidenreich, Clint Silver
Elder	Clint Sturdy
Lay Assistants	Delmer Haufler**, Greg Schultz

Serving Next Week

Greeters	Diane Schulze & Kathie Kirschenmann
Organist	iPad (SOS)
Acolyte	Phillip Wendling
Reader	Cheryl Mussatto
Ushers	Lynn Silver ©, Clint Sturdy © Reed Silver, Donice Browning
	, ,
Elder	Clint Sturdy

Record of Faithfulness

Attendance Last Sunday: 59

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

Building Fund Last Sunday: \$---

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

