

## HOMILY

### OFFERING

*Fum, Fum, Fum*      *ZSJ Bell Choir Quartet*

### THE PRAYERS

Glory to God in the highest.  
**And peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.  
**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with  
steadfast love.

**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all  
people.**

Blessed are you, Emmanuel, You promise to be with us even to the end of  
the age.

**Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or  
homeless.**

Blessed are you, son of Mary. You share our humanity.  
**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.  
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your  
light to all the world.**

### HYMN OF LIGHT

*Night of Silence*      *on screens*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*The candles are extinguished*

### BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy  
of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, Holy  
Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen**

### SENDING HYMN

*Joy to the World*      *LBW #39*

### POSTLUDE



Zion St. John Lutheran Church  
*Being the Body of Christ*

Pastor Kim Wills

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December 24, 2025 10:00 p.m.

**Tonight's Worship Assistants**

**Organist:** Cindy H **Lector:** Alice G  
**Acolyte:** Renner H **Crucifer:** Olivia R  
Greeters... Tony & Jessica R

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

Joy.  
Fleeting.  
Fragile.  
A gift given.

Joy.  
Even in the eyes of a cancer patient...  
The fiber of the being of one abused...  
The heart of a grieving spouse.

Joy.  
Because Mary had a baby.  
Angels sang.  
Shepherds witnessed.

Joy.  
God still living among us  
In word, water, bread, wine,  
the church.  
The earthly conveying the eternal.

Joy to the world!

Steven L. Ullestad  
Former Bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *O Come Emmanuel*

*Retz/Tauro/ Wills Families*

**CHRISTMAS DIALOG**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world!  
**He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.  
**With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven".**

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.  
**With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

**HYMN**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

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**GREETING AND PRAYER**

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*see insert*

*The Retz/ Tauro Families*

**READING** *Isaiah 9:2-7*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *All the Stars Shone Down* **ZSJ Chancel Choir**

**READING** *Micah 5:2-5a*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *O Come Little Children* **ZSJ Bell Choir**

**READING** *Luke 1:46-55*

**HYMN** *Away in a Manger* **LBW #67**

**A TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL** **Luke 2: 1-20**