

Zion St. John Lutheran Church

Being the Body of Christ

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December 28, 2025 9:00 a.m. 1st Sunday of Christmas

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the promised Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in six short Bible readings from the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols.

PRELUDE *Noel Polonais (Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)* A Guilmant

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

GATHERING CAROL *O Come All Ye Faithful* #283

OPENING LITANY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Once in Royal David's City* #269

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9: 2, 6 and 11: 2-4a

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

CAROL *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* #251

SECOND READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'

³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* #276

THIRD READING: Galatians 4:4-7

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

CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#279

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:15-36

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CAROL *Love Has Come*

#292

FIFTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

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

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL *The First Noel, vs. 1,2,5*

#300

SIXTH READING: John 1:1-5, 10-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

OFFERING

I Wonder As I Wander

642

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
 3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'n'ry peo - ple like
 wise men and farm-ers and shep-herds and all, and high from the heav-ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'n'ry peo - ple like

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

I WONDER
12 11 1112

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
 Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
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Stand THE PRAYERS

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

After each petition: Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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**

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, and Holy Spirit,
 bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN *He Came Down*

#253

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **Peace to God's people on earth!**

As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE *"Adeste Fideles" (O Come, All Ye Faithful)* George Whiting

Stewardship

**...we offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us
 Our Selves...**

Ministers...The Members of Zion St. John Lutheran Church

Music...Charles S Readers...Alice G, Diane W

Greeter/ Fellowship...Don & Alice G

Audio/Visual...Scott C and Fred R

Our Time...

Dec 21...65 LSV...19

Dec 3...25 LSV... 2 Dec 10...24 LSV...7 Dec 17...24 LSV...11

Dec 24 5 pm...104 LSV....26 10 pm....86 LSV...37

Dec 25...32 LSV...10

And Our Possessions...

Dec 21...\$3,311.00 Dec 24-25...\$8,538.00

...signs of your gracious love