



THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME

Jesus



The Nativity of Our Lord



December 24, 2022
4:00 & 9:00 pm

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

The Prelude

* The Entrance Hymn & Greeting "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

No. 45

O come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels:
(Refrain) Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *(Refrain)*

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest: *(Refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: *(Refrain)*

* The Greeting

TODAY CHRIST IS BORN: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

And also with you.

* The Kyrie Eleison *(music on page 57 of LBW)*

IN PEACE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

(Sung) **Lord, have mercy.**

FOR THE PEACE FROM ABOVE, AND FOR OUR SALVATION, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

FOR THE PEACE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, AND FOR THE UNITY OF ALL, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

FOR THIS HOLY HOUSE, AND FOR ALL WHO OFFER HERE THEIR WORSHIP AND PRAISE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

HELP, SAVE, COMFORT, AND DEFEND US, GRACIOUS LORD.

Amen.

* **The Hymn of Praise** *(music on page 58 of LBW)*

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

* **The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Special Music

“Pretty Little Baby” – Mochnick

Sunday School Choir, 4:00 pm

“Arise and Shine” – Fettke

Senior Choir, 9:00 pm

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

A READING FROM ISAIAH:

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.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

The Candle Lighting

Choir Only **All creation lies in waiting, in the stillness of the night,
With hope anticipating the Advent of Eternal Light.**

ADVENT IS A TIME TO PROCLAIM.

Joy to the Word, the Lord is come!

WE PROCLAIM A HOPE THAT IS STRONGER THAN ANY TRIAL.

Joy to the Word, the Lord is come!

WE PROCLAIM A VICTORY THAT IS STRONGER THAN ANY DEFEAT.

Joy to the Word, the Lord is come!

WE PROCLAIM A PEACE THAT IS STRONGER THAN ANY CONFLICT.

Joy to the Word, the Lord is come!

WE PROCLAIM A FREEDOM THAT IS STRONGER THAN ANY BONDAGE.

Joy to the Word, the Lord is come!

TONIGHT WE LIGHT ALL THE CANDLES. THE FIRST CANDLE REMINDS US THAT WE WAIT UPON THE LORD WITH FAITHFUL ENDURANCE. THE SECOND CANDLE REMINDS US THAT ADVENT IS A TIME TO WATCH FOR GOD'S PRESENCE WITH HOPEFUL EXPECTATION. THE THIRD CANDLE REMINDS US THAT ADVENT IS A TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE LORD IN HEART, SOUL, AND MIND. THE FOURTH CANDLE REMINDS US THAT THE ONE WE WAIT FOR, WATCH FOR, AND PREPARE FOR IS JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS EMMANUEL, MEANING GOD IS WITH US. TONIGHT WE LIGHT THE LAST CANDLE; THE CHRIST CANDLE. THIS CANDLE REMINDS US THAT WE ARE TO PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS BY CELEBRATING WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE, AND BY SHARING IT WITH OTHERS. AS THE LIGHT FROM EACH CANDLE FILLS THIS ROOM, SO MAY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST FILL OUR WORLD!

Sung All **We proclaim with hope for the morning Light,
for the love of Christ to illuminate the night.
We proclaim with joy for the Savior's birth;
we proclaim with hope for peace on earth.**

GOD IN HEAVEN, WE THANK YOU FOR GUIDING US THROUGH OUR ADVENT JOURNEY. THROUGH WAITING, WATCHING, PREPARING, AND PRAISING, WE ARE NOW READY TO PROCLAIM. HELP US RECEIVE THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS, AS WE CELEBRATE AND REJOICE THAT YOU HAVE COME TO US THROUGH THE GIFT OF CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND REDEEMER.

Amen.

The Second Lesson Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

A READING FROM TITUS

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

*** The Hymn**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 41 (Vs. 1 & 2)

(As the gospel procession moves into the midst of the congregation, please turn and face the processional cross)

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

*** The Holy Gospel St. Luke 2:1-20**

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE THE 2ND CHAPTER

(Sung) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

(Sung) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*** The Hymn**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 41 (Vs. 3 & 4)

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

* **The Hymn**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

No.71

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

(Refrain) Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *(Refrain)*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *(Refrain)*

* **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* **The Prayer of Intercession**

WITH WONDER AND THANKSGIVING FOR CHRIST'S COMING INTO THE WORLD, WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE LIFE OF THE EARTH, AND THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY.

A brief silence.

YOUR INFINITE LOVE IS BORN TO US THIS NIGHT. WITH CHOIRS OF ANGELS THE CHURCH PROCLAIMS THE GOOD NEWS. SEND US OUT AS MESSENGERS OF THE HOPE THAT HAS COME TO ALL PEOPLE. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOU ARE PLEASED TO DWELL WITH YOUR CREATURES AND THE WHOLE EARTH SINGS FOR JOY. RENEW THE SPLENDOR OF CREATION FROM THE SMALLEST CELL TO THE WIDEST GALAXIES. GUIDE US TO BE WISE STEWARDS OF YOUR GIFTS FOR THE SAKE OF GENERATIONS TO COME. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOUR AUTHORITY IS OVER THE NATIONS. BREAK THE ROD OF OPPRESSION IN EVERY LAND AND FREE ALL PEOPLE FROM FEAR. BRING PEACE WHERE THERE IS WAR, COMPASSION WHERE THERE IS SUFFERING, AND HEALING WHERE THERE IS DISEASE. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOU CHERISH THOSE WHO ARE MOST VULNERABLE. PROTECT INFANTS AND CHILDREN, AND BLESS THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM. WATCH OVER WOMEN GIVING BIRTH, ATTEND THE DYING, AND RELIEVE ANY WHO ARE IN PAIN. SHELTER REFUGEE FAMILIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE NO HOME. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOUR LOVINGKINDNESS EMBRACES EVERYONE IN NEED. HELP ANY FOR WHOM THIS SEASON IS LONELY OR JOYLESS. COMFORT THOSE AMONG US, OR KNOWN TO US, WHO ARE EXPERIENCING DISTRESS OF BODY OR MIND, MISSING LOVED ONES, OR GRIEVING. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOU WELCOME THOSE WHO HAVE DIED INTO THE JOYOUS LIGHT OF GLORY. WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE SAINTS OF EVERY TIME AND PLACE WHO HAVE PRAISED YOU WITH LIVES OF FAITH AND HUMILITY. INSPIRE US BY THEIR EXAMPLE TO LOVE YOU BY SERVING OTHERS. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

PONDERING THE MYSTERY OF ETERNAL LOVE MADE FLESH IN CHRIST JESUS, WE COMMEND ALL FOR WHOM WE PRAY TO THE MERCY OF GOD.

Amen.

The Offering and Offertory

Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded or mail envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252. Visit ziontamaqua.com for our Vanco option.

*** The Offertory Hymn**

“What Child is This?”

No. 40 stanza 3

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**

*** The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GOD OF ABUNDANCE, RECEIVE AND BLESS THESE GIFTS WE HAVE OFFERED. JOIN OUR HEARTS WITH THE SONG OF THE ANGELS AND GATHER US AT YOUR TABLE OF CELEBRATION. STRENGTHEN US TO SHARE WITH ALL THE WORLD THE ABUNDANCE OF YOUR GRACE UPON GRACE, POURED OUT IN JESUS CHRIST, THE WORD MADE FLESH.

Amen.

*** The Preface and Sanctus** *(music on page 68 of LBW)*

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **And also with you.**

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

We lift them to the Lord.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

IT IS INDEED RIGHT.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: *(ELW No. 193)*

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

* **The Great Thanksgiving**

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, FATHER, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR BELOVED SON, WHOM YOU SENT IN THIS END OF THE AGES TO SAVE AND REDEEM US AND TO PROCLAIM TO US YOUR WILL. HE IS YOUR WORD, INSEPARABLE FROM YOU. THROUGH HIM YOU CREATED ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM YOU TAKE DELIGHT. HE IS YOUR WORD, SENT FROM HEAVEN TO A VIRGIN'S WOMB.

HE THERE TOOK ON OUR NATURE AND OUR LOT AND WAS SHOWN FORTH AS YOUR SON, BORN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

IT IS HE, OUR LORD JESUS, WHO FULFILLED ALL YOUR WILL AND WON FOR YOU A HOLY PEOPLE; HE STRETCHED OUT HIS HANDS IN SUFFERING IN ORDER TO FREE FROM SUFFERING THOSE WHO TRUST YOU.

IT IS HE WHO, HANDED OVER TO A DEATH HE FREELY ACCEPTED, IN ORDER TO DESTROY DEATH, TO BREAK THE BONDS OF THE EVIL ONE, TO CRUSH HELL UNDERFOOT, TO GIVE LIGHT TO THE RIGHTEOUS, TO ESTABLISH HIS COVENANT, AND TO SHOW FORTH THE RESURRECTION, TAKING BREAD AND GIVING THANKS TO YOU, SAID: TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY BODY, BROKEN FOR YOU. DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME. IN THE SAME WAY HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS, AND GAVE IT FOR ALL TO DRINK, SAYING: THIS IS MY BLOOD POURED OUT FOR YOU. DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

REMEMBERING, THEN, HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION, WE LIFT THIS BREAD AND CUP BEFORE YOU, GIVING YOU THANKS THAT YOU HAVE MADE US WORTHY TO STAND BEFORE YOU AND TO SERVE YOU AS YOUR PRIESTLY PEOPLE.

AND WE ASK YOU: SEND YOUR SPIRIT UPON THESE GIFTS OF YOUR CHURCH; GATHER INTO ONE ALL WHO SHARE THIS BREAD AND WINE; FILL US WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT TO ESTABLISH OUR FAITH IN TRUTH, THAT WE MAY PRAISE AND GLORIFY YOU THROUGH YOUR SON JESUS CHRIST.

THROUGH HIM ALL GLORY AND HONOR ARE YOURS, ALMIGHTY FATHER, WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, IN YOUR HOLY CHURCH BOTH NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

* **The Lord's Prayer**

JESUS, 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

* **The Invitation to the Holy Meal**

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST! COME TO THE TABLE OF PEACE.

* **The Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Distribution

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Communion will be a continuous line from each side. There will be no kneeling. Please take a communion cup, receive the host from Pastor then proceed to the communion assistant on your side to have the wine poured in your cup and return to your seat. **Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.***

9:00 pm During communion, those in the pew are asked to join the choir in singing these traditional Christmas carols:

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.



The First Noel

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.

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)*

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav'ns all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

The Bells of Christmas

The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.

This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

* The Table Blessing

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.

Amen.

*** The Candle Lighting**

*While the quiet music is being played the acolytes will light your hand-held candles. Please TIP your UNLIGHTED CANDLE to meet the flame, the lighted candle cannot be tipped toward you. Please remember that there is danger involved in a candlelight service. We are reminded that candles are not for small children. Older children who hold candles should be reminded of the danger and closely supervised by a parent or an adult. Hold the candle away from your (and your neighbors) hair and clothing. By observing these simple precautions we can continue to enjoy this traditional service. Please **REMAIN STANDING** with candles lighted until after the Benediction and Dismissal. Extinguish your candles before singing the final hymn.*

*** The Responsory**

THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WALKED IN DARKNESS...

the midnight of sin, the dread darkness of death's shadow ...

HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT!

Morning's sunshine breaks over the horizon! Shadows are vanquished! Light has come!

YOU MADE THIS LIGHT APPEAR, O GOD!

You made the morning come!

NOW LEAD US ALL TO WALK IN THE LIGHT--

basking in Jesus' bright presence.

AND LEAD US, AT LAST, TO WAKE TO HEAVEN'S GLORIOUS MORNING--

to live forever in eternity's Light!

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, OUR LORD. HE LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

*** The Hymn**

“Silent Night”

No. 65

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

*** A Reading: John 1:1-5, 10, 14, 16**

*** The Closing Prayer**

Let us pray: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*** The Benediction & Dismissal**

GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU, ✚ JESUS GRANT YOU GRACE AND TRUTH, AND THE SPIRIT SEND PEACE UPON YOUR HEARTS, NOW AND FOREVER.

(Sung) Amen! Amen! Amen!

CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN! GO IN PEACE. PROCLAIM THIS GOOD NEWS.

Thanks be to God.

Please Extinguish your candle



*** The Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

No. 39

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*From Zion Council and the Parish Staff may
you and your family have a blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

Our thanks to all the acolytes, altar servers, and everyone who assisted this evening to make our service so special.

Pastor	Rev. Cindy White	
Parish Musician	Sandy Mehalko	
	4:00	9:00
LCA'S	Deb Davies	Laura Fulmer
Cantors	Michael Haspe	Beth Marcavage
Lectors	Emily Stahler	Michael Haspe

Thank you to the trumpeter **Thomas Graham** for adding his talent to the Christmas Eve liturgy.

Happy New Year 2023– Zion will host a Community Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner New Year's Day, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm or sell-out. No Take outs - Eat -in only. A Free will offering will be accepted. Everyone Welcome!!

Thank God and thank you for your continuous giving to the Capital Campaign. We have successfully paid back the entire amount we borrowed from our Endowment Fund. \$175,000.00 was borrowed for the second stage of our restoration on 9/17/2019 and on 12/03/2022 it has been completely paid back plus \$5,480.14 in interest to the Endowment fund. While we take this moment to celebrate, we pray that you will continue to fulfill your pledge and offerings to the Capital Campaign Fund. The future money given to the fund will be used as "seed money" for the next step in restoration.

WHY COMPLETE AN INTENT CARD? Besides freeing the \$2,000 challenge gift that will go to Zion ministries including Christian Education and the proposed Stephen Ministry, completing and returning your card demonstrates your caring for the future of all Zion ministries. Our leaders can better administrate our ministries when giving is planned, consistent and progressive. Completing and returning your intent card reflects your ability to plan your giving for the coming year. Your giving is intentional, not accidental or spur of the moment. Using our new giving page on our website and Facebook page allows your giving to be consistent on a weekly or monthly basis, especially when you are unable to attend worship. As we move along our discipleship journey, our giving is progressive and increases as our faith increases. As of Sunday, Dec. 18, we have received 49 intent cards. Forty of those cards express an increase in generosity for the coming year. We need 11 more cards by January 1 to reach our goal of 60 and free that challenge gift. Blank intent cards are available on the bulletin table, on the Gathering Room table or by asking an usher. Your card matters to us. We hope you find that it matters to you, too. God Bless and Merry Christmas, The Zion Generosity Team