



# CHRIST

*For unto you is born this day in the city of  
David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

LUKE 2:11



# The Nativity of Our Lord



December 24, 2024  
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**                    *“Repeat the Sounding Joy”* – arr. Wagner    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 Psalm**                                    *“Away in a Manger”*

No. 67

**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.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

## 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 2<sup>ND</sup> CHAPTER

*(Sung)* **Glorify 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 Sunday School Program**

***"10 Christmas Symbols"***

***"Christmas Lullaby Calypso"*** – arr. Strid

4:00 pm

**The Sermon**

***The Rev. Cindy White,*** 9:00 pm

**\* The Hymn**

***"Of the Father's Love Begotten"***

No. 42

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen.

## \* 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

FILLED WITH GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY, LET US OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH, THE EARTH, AND ALL PEOPLE.

*A brief silence.*

ANGELS SING WITH PRAISE, AND SHEPHERDS RUN WITH HASTE. AS WE GLORIFY AND PRAISE YOU IN THIS PLACE, SEND US INTO THE WORLD, PROCLAIMING THE SALVATION YOU HAVE REVEALED THIS NIGHT. GOD OF GRACE,

**receive our prayer.**

THE SEAS ROAR, AND THE TREES OF THE FOREST SING FOR JOY. AS CREATION RESOUNDS WITH PRAISE, INSPIRE US WITH AWE, REVERENCE, AND A RENEWED CARE FOR ALL THAT FILLS THE FIELDS, SKIES, AND SEAS. GOD OF GRACE,

**receive our prayer.**

THE NATIONS DECLARE YOUR GLORY. UPHOLD THE LEADERS OF THE EARTH WITH YOUR JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS. BREAK THE ROD OF THE OPPRESSOR IN EVERY LAND, AND BRING PEACE WHERE THERE IS CONFLICT. GOD OF GRACE,

**receive our prayer.**

THE HOLY FAMILY FINDS SHELTER AROUND THE ANIMALS' MANGER. DRAW NEAR TO PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, THOSE WHO ARE ALONE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, AND ALL FOR WHOM THIS WORLD MAKES NO ROOM. WRAP ALL YOUR CHILDREN IN BANDS OF LOVE AND MERCY. GOD OF GRACE,

**receive our prayer.**

A CHILD IS BORN FOR US AND LIGHT SHINES ON THE WEARY. WATCH OVER THOSE WHO GIVE BIRTH THIS NIGHT AND ATTEND TO THOSE WHO ARE DYING. BE PRESENT IN OUR JOYS AND IN OUR SORROWS. GOD OF GRACE,

**receive our prayer.**

THE HEAVENLY HOST PRAISES YOU. WITH THANKSGIVING FOR MARY, JOSEPH, AND ALL YOUR SAINTS, SUSTAIN US IN THE BLESSED HOPE REVEALED THIS NIGHT. FASHION US BY THEIR EXAMPLE INTO A PEOPLE ZEALOUS FOR GOOD DEEDS, SHARING YOUR LOVE AND MERCY WITH ALL. GOD OF GRACE,

**receive our prayer.**

WE COMMEND THESE PRAYERS TO YOU, O GOD, TRUSTING YOUR GRACE MADE KNOWN TO ALL, THROUGH THE WORD MADE FLESH, JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD.

**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](http://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 HEAVEN AND EARTH, FROM THE BEGINNING, YOU HAVE CALLED FORTH LIFE, IN WHICH YOU TAKE DELIGHT. THE TREES, THE FIELDS, AND THE SEAS SING FOR JOY. BLESS NOW THESE GIFTS, RECEIVED FROM YOUR BOUNTY, THAT WE MAY JOIN THE CHORUS OF CREATION TO TELL OF YOUR SALVATION FROM DAY TO DAY.

**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**

A CHILD HAS BEEN BORN FOR US; A SON GIVEN TO US. COME, RECEIVE THE GIFT OF JESUS.

### **\* 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:*

#### **Joy to the World**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its 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.**

#### **Love Has Come**

**Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.**

**See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:**

**Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

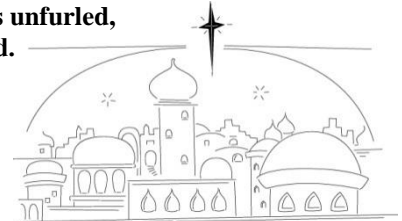


Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

### 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.



### Holy Child Within the Manger

Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;  
Come as friend to ev’ry stranger, come as hope for ev’ry fear.  
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,  
As you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story - how your love for us was shown,  
When the image of your glory wore an image like our own.  
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.  
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev’ry land and race.

### 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.

### \* **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**

THE GOD OF LOVE, FATHER, ✚ SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, LAVISH YOU WITH GRACE, ILLUMINE YOUR PATH, AND INCREASE YOUR JOY, TODAY AND ALWAYS.

**(Sung) Amen! Amen! Amen!**

GO IN PEACE. THE WORD OF GOD DWELLS IN YOU RICHLY.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please Extinguish your candle*



**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

*(Refrain)* **Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *(Refrain)***

**Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *(Refrain)***

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Liturgical material reprinted from: SUNDAYSANDSEASONS.COM Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24607. License sponsored July 2024 to July 2025 by Mrs. James A. Valentine; Bill and Marianne Jones; In honor and memory of loved ones by Jon and Deb Davies and family; In honor of loved ones by Robert Fisher ONELICENSE #A-708066 (for sung portions of the liturgy not covered by the Augsburg Fortress License) sponsored in 2024 by Art and Sharon Connely, in loving memory of Arthur and Betty Connely

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

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Cindy White	
<b>Parish Musician</b>	Sandy Mehalko	
	<b>4:00</b>	<b>9:00</b>
<b>LCA’S</b>	Michael Haspe	Michael Haspe
<b>Lectors</b>	Alexander D’Alonzo, Belle Hascin	Joe Mehalko
	Thad Matalavage	
<b>Cantors</b>	Michael Haspe	Michael Haspe

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

**A reminder that both a record of communion AND a record of contribution is necessary to maintain voting active member status. Please remember to complete a communion card and to use your offering envelopes. Thank you, Church Council**

**Happy New Year 2025** - Zion will host a Community Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner New Year's Day, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm or when all dinners are given out. Dinners will be served, eat in or take-out. Orders can be placed by calling Mary Ruth at 570-668-4451 or order on the Zion website and Facebook page. A Free will offering will be accepted. Everyone Welcome!!

*Please note that the church office will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>, January 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are in need of assistance please leave a message, the answering machine will be checked periodically. Thank You!*

**Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2025 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2025 is on the bulletin board.** The costs of the flowers are \$42.40, and individuals will be billed from the florist. The cost of the bulletin sponsorship is \$16.00, and monies are due when you place your name on the list. You can also sponsor the Candles for the month at \$40. **Please remember to fill out a card with your honorarium or memorial, this information is needed for the bulletin. Please do not sign up without filling out a form.** These sponsorships are on a first come first serve basis; this is to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to sponsor these memorials. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!



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