

# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

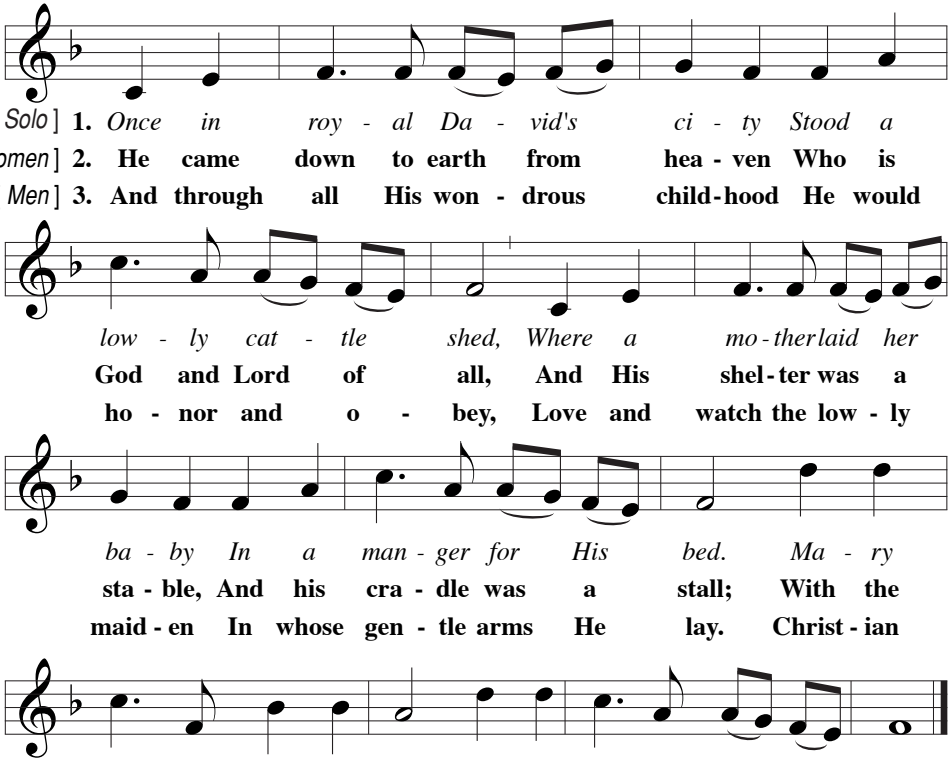
7:00 pm ..... Friday, December 24, 2021

*The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.*

### Invocation

*In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. .... Amen.*

### Processional Hymn ..... Once in Royal David's City



[ Solo ] 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty Stood a  
[ Women ] 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven Who is  
[ Men ] 3. And through all His won - drous child-hood He would  
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a mo - ther laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
ho - nor and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly  
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed. Ma - ry  
sta - ble, And his cra - dle was a stall; With the  
maid - en In whose gen - tle arms He lay. Christ - ian  
was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.  
poor and mean and lowly Lived our Sa - vior pure and holy.  
child - ren, washed in Him, By His life stand pure from sin.

[ All ] 4. Our High Priest who knew our childhood,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

[ All ] 5. But our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above,  
As he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

[ All ] 6. Not in that poor lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by,  
But then at the Resurrection,  
We shall see our Lord most high,  
When like stars his children, crowned,  
All in white, his praise shall sound!

**Bidding Prayer, Lord's Prayer**

*Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve...  
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:*

**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 Almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all..... Amen*

[ Be Seated ]

**Carol ..... Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**



[ All ] 1. Hark! A thrill-ing voice is sound-ing, "Christ is near," we  
[ Men ] 2. Star-tled at the sol- emn warn-ing Let the earth-bound  
[ Women ] 3. See, the Lamb, so long ex- spect- ed, Comes with par- don  
[ All ] 4. Of His grace we may be cer- tain, For this eve' He  
[ All • Rise ] 5. Hon- or, glo- ry, might do- min- ion To the Fa- ther



hear it say! "Cast a- way the works of dark-ness,  
soul a- rise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor- row,  
came to earth. Fore- taste of His fi- nal bless- ing,  
and the Son With the ev- er- liv- ing Spir- it



all you child- ren of the day."  
Shines up- on the morn- ing skies.  
One and all, to be for- giv'n;  
Giv- ing all men joy and mirth.  
While e- ter- nal a- ges run!

[ Be seated ]

**+ The Word of God for the People of God +  
Seven-fold Lessons and Carols for Christmas**

**First Lesson ..... Genesis 3:8-15**

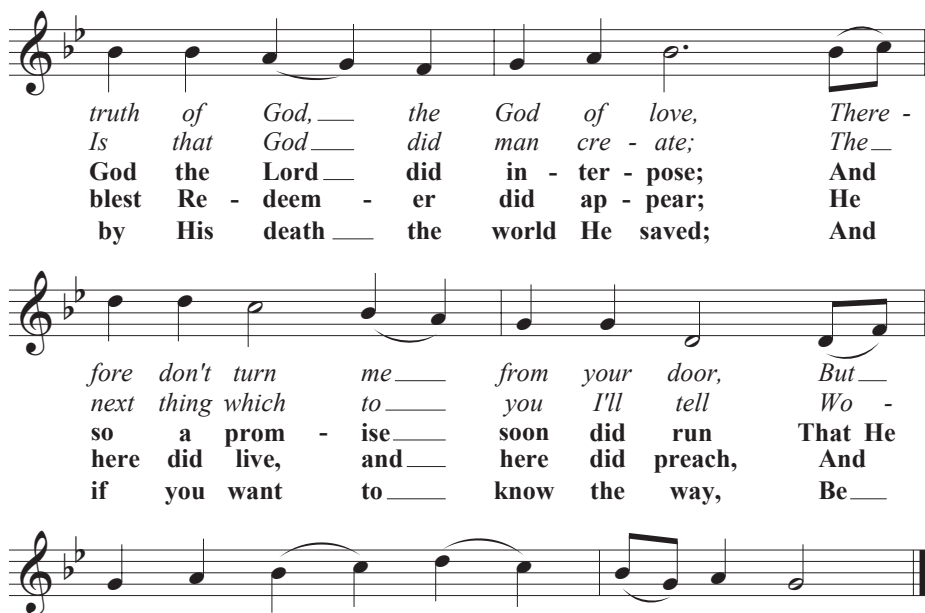
*Yahweh announces in the Garden of Eden that the Seed of the Woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

[ Following the reading ] *This is the Word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God!**

**Carol ..... The Truth from Above**



(Choir) 1. This is the truth — sent from a- bove, The  
(Choir) 2. The first thing which I do re- late —  
(All) 3. Thus we were heirs — to end- less woes, Till  
(All) 4. And at that sea- son of the year Our  
(All) 5. Thus He in love — to us be- haved, and



truth of God, the God of love, There -  
 Is that God did man cre - ate; The -  
 God the Lord did in - ter - pose; And  
 blest Re - deem - er did ap - pear; He  
 by His death the world He saved; And

fore don't turn me from your door, But -  
 next thing which to you I'll tell Wo -  
 so a prom - ise soon did run That He  
 here did live, and here did preach, And  
 if you want to know the way, Be -

heark - en all both rich and poor.  
 man was made with man to dwell.  
 would re - deem us by His Son.  
 man - y thou - sands He did teach.  
 pleased to hear what He did say.

## Second Lesson ..... Genesis 22:15-18

*Yahweh promises to Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

[ Following the reading ] *This is the Word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God!**

## Carol ..... Let the Earth Now Praise The Lord .... Burgundy Hymn 352

[ All sing stanza 1; Men alone sing stanza 2; Women alone sing stanza 3;  
 All sing stanza 4. OMIT stanzas 5 & 6. ]

## Third Lesson ..... Isaiah 9:2-7

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet, Isaiah.*

[ Following the reading ] *This is the Word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God!**

## Choral Anthem ..... To Us a Child Is Born ..... J. S. Bach

[ From the Christmas Cantata, BWV 142, Movements 1 and 2. ]

## Fourth Lesson ..... Isaiah 11:1-9

*A shoot comes forth from the stump of Jesse.*

[ Following the reading ] *This is the Word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God!**

## Carol ..... Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ..... Burgundy Hymn 359

[ All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Choir alone sings stanza 3; All sing stanza 4. ]

## Fifth Lesson ..... Luke 1:26-38

*The angel Gabriel announces the birth of a son to the Blessed Virgin Mary .*

[ Following the reading ] *This is the Word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God!**

## Choral Anthem ..... The Magnificat ..... Thomas Attwood Walmisley

**Sixth Lesson ..... Luke 2:1-14**

*Saint Luke proclaims the birth of Christ.*

[ Following the reading ] *This is the Word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God!**

**Carol ..... Away in a Manger ..... Burgundy Hymn 365**

**Seventh Lesson ..... Luke 2:15-20**

*The shepherds go to visit the Child announced by angels.*

[ Following the reading ] *This is the Word of the Lord.* ..... **Thanks be to God!**

**Carol ..... Hark! the Herald Angels Sing ..... Burgundy Hymn 380**

**Sermon**

**Offerings**

**Choral Voluntary ..... Christmas Night ..... John Rutter**


**Hymn ..... From Heaven Above to Earth I Come ... Burgundy Hymn 358**

[ All sing stanzas 1 and 2; Women alone sing stanzas 3 and 5;  
Men alone sing stanzas 4 and 6; All sing stanza 7. ]

**+ The Prayers of the People of God Before the Throne of God +**

[ Stand ] **Salutation**

*The Lord be with you.*



And with your spir - it.

**Collect for Christmas Eve:** *O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A - men.

**Collect for Peace:** *O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A - men.

## + CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY +

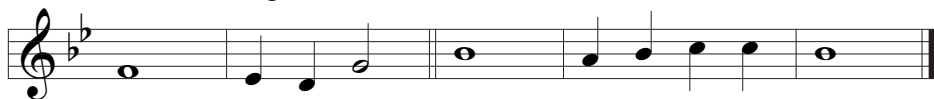
[ The light for the candles is distributed during the Solo. ]

[ The lighted candle will remain upright. Please tip your unlighted candle to the flame for lighting. ]

### Solo ..... Douce Nuit

*Douce nuit, sainte nuit, Dans les cieux, l'astre luit. Le mystère annoncé s'accomplit, Cet enfant sur la paille endormi, C'est l'amour infini, C'est l'amour infini.*

### Proclamation of the Light of God



1. The people who walked in darkness have seen . . a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on | them has light \_\_\_\_ shined.
2. For unto us a . . child is born unto . . . . us a son is •given•.
3. In . . . . . Him was life, and that life | was the light of men.
4. The light shines | in the •darkness•, but the darkness has not . . . ov- er come \_\_\_\_ it.
5. And the . . . . Word •became• flesh and dwelt among us, | full of grace and truth;
6. We have be— held His •glory•, glory as of the only Son | from the Fa- \_\_\_\_ ther.

### Hymn ..... Silent Night, Holy Night



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - dant beams from Your ho - ly face



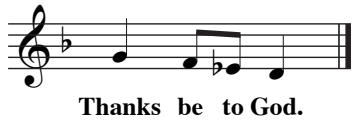
Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild, Sleep in hea - ven - ly  
Hea - v'nly hosts \_\_\_\_ sing, "Al - le - lu - ia!" Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord at Your



peace, \_\_\_\_ Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
born! \_\_\_\_ Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
birth, \_\_\_\_ Je - sus, Lord at Your birth.

**Benedicamus**

*Let us bless the Lord.*



Thanks be to God.

**Benediction**

*May He, who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ☩ be upon you and remain with you always.*



A - men.

[ The candles are extinguished ]

*During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.*

**Recessional Hymn ..... Joy to the World..... Burgundy Hymn 387**

**Postlude ..... From the Christmas Cantata: Alleluia ..... J. S. Bach**



**THE DIVINE SERVICE FOR  
THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
Tomorrow, Christmas Day, at 9:00 a.m.**

*Liturgical texts and musical settings: from Lutheran Service Book, copyright © 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012381. Quempas Carol from Worship Supplement, copyright © 1969 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. Prayers from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, in the public domain. The Psalm tone by John Stainer and the hymns are in the public domain. Stanza 4 of "Hark a Thrilling Voice" copyright © 2018 by Rev. Dr. James W. Voeltz. Used with permission.*

# **Lessons for the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord**

## **First Lesson**

### **Genesis 3:8-15**

[The man and woman] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

## **Second Lesson**

### **Genesis 22:15-18**

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

## **Third Lesson**

### **Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.  
You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

#### **Fourth Lesson**

#### **Isaiah 11:1-9**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,



and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.  
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

## **Fifth Lesson**

## **Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## **Sixth Lesson**

## **Luke 2:1-14 (KJV)**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

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

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

## **Seventh Lesson**

## **Luke 2:15-20 (KJV)**

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

# Hymns for the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

## **LSB376 Once in Royal David's City**

**Cecil F. Alexander**

Text: (sts. 2-4, 6) alt by Robert W. Schaibley; © 1986 Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Printed in Service Bulletin

## **Printed Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

**Latin, c. 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> cent.**

Text: (st. 4) © 2018 Rev. Dr. James W. Voelz; Used by permission.

Printed in Service Bulletin

## **Printed The Truth from Above**

**Traditional English**

Printed in Service Bulletin

## **LSB352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord**

**Heinrich Held**

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- M 2. What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- W 3. Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—Truly came, as long foretold.
4. As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.

## **LSB359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

**German, 16<sup>th</sup> cent.**

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior, When half-spent was the night.
3. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death he saves us And lightens ev'ry load.

Choir  
only

4. O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven, And to the endless day.

**LSB365 Away in a Manger**     *Little Children's Book (sts. 1-2); Vineyard Songs (st. 3)*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

**LSB380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Charles Wesley

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. 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 the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*
3. 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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

## **LSB358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

**Martin Luther**

1. "From heav'n above to earth I come  
to bear good news to ev'ry home:  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. "To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- W 3. "This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.
- M 4. "He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory share.
- W 5. "These are the signs that you shall mark:  
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid  
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- M 6. How glad we'll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us His own dear Son.
7. Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
And see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christ Child lying there.

## **LSB363 Silent Night**

**Franz Joseph Mohr**

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

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

### **LSB387 Joy to the World**

**Isaac Watts**

1. 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 nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows 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 the curse is found.
4. 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 of His love.

# *Eve of the Nativity*

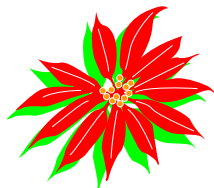
*December 24, 2021*

*7:00 PM*



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*





## **Poinsettia Dedications**

In loving memory of our parents Carl & Myrtle Albersmeyer  
and Byrle & Joyce Greenamyre  
by Carl & Rosie Albersmeyer and Family

In loving memory of Walter & Adeline Bengs and Bill Bengs  
by Clarann Bengs

In loving memory of our parents  
Paul & Esther Bieberich and David & Agnes Shutt  
by Don & Beth Bieberich

In loving memory of our parents  
Paul & Esther Bieberich and Paul Manze & Hilda Bieberich  
By Dwight & Carol Lu Bieberich

In memory of my parents  
Robert & Viola Crouse  
by James R. Crouse

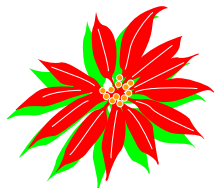
In loving memory of Donald Ganaway  
by Julie Ganaway

In loving memory of our wife, mother and Baba Shirely Goeglein:  
You're in our hearts forever!  
by Stan, Tim, Jenny, Tim & Paul Goeglein

Given in Loving memory of Georgianna Ostermeyer  
by her children Karen, David, Kim, and Kirk

To my loving parents Richard & Virginia Hollman  
by Beth Hollman

In loving memory of Spiro & Anne Kostoff  
and Karen Kostoff Wood  
by Karl Kostoff and Marty & Judy Thomas



In loving memory of Dr. Robert & Katherine Leininger  
and Fred, Betty, Teresa & John Beckman  
by Kevin & Maribeth Leininger

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Manth,  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Manth,  
Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand Bornkamp,  
and Mrs. Clara Tegtmeier  
by Jennifer Manth

In loving memory of Georgianna Ostersmeyer  
by her husband Walter Ostermeyer

In loving memory of our fathers, Earl Klein and Darwin Punke  
“Unto you is born ... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11)  
by Pastor & Marge Punke

In loving memory of my parents Albert & Emma Dirks  
by Marilynn Shafter

In loving memory of my wife Jill E. Stokes  
and my parents David & Savannah Stokes  
by Clarence “Bo” Stokes

To the Glory of Our Newborn King!  
by Jim & Judy Voelz

Rejoice Our Savior is here  
by Bill & Carolyn Wallschlaeger

With thanks to God for sending His Son Jesus as Savior.  
“O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”  
by André Woodard

# Celebrate

## The Birth Of Christ

### *Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to be the body of Christ gathered at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana to:*

- *Receive Christ's gifts in baptism, preaching, teaching, and the Eucharist;*
- *Reach out to those who do not know the love of God in Christ;*
- *Reveal Christ's love for the world through acts of kindness and mercy toward all.*

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46803  
744-1389 Fax 744-2421

#### **The Pastoral Ministry At Zion**

**Senior Pastor:**  
**Field Workers:**

**Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (260-341-5397)**  
**Erik Saunders, Patrick Jackson**

#### **The Teaching Staff At Lutheran South Unity**

**Teachers:**

**Barry Chrzan, Gene Koch, Yvonne Schwanz, Danielle Ramsey, Merideth Tourney,  
Hannah Maresh, John Fink, Cathie Wakeland, Natalie Reynolds**

**Sheila Nehrenz, Principal**

#### **The Support Staff**

**Organist and Director of Parish Music:**  
**Church Office Manager:**

**Michael Hollman, MM**  
**Melvia Culpher**



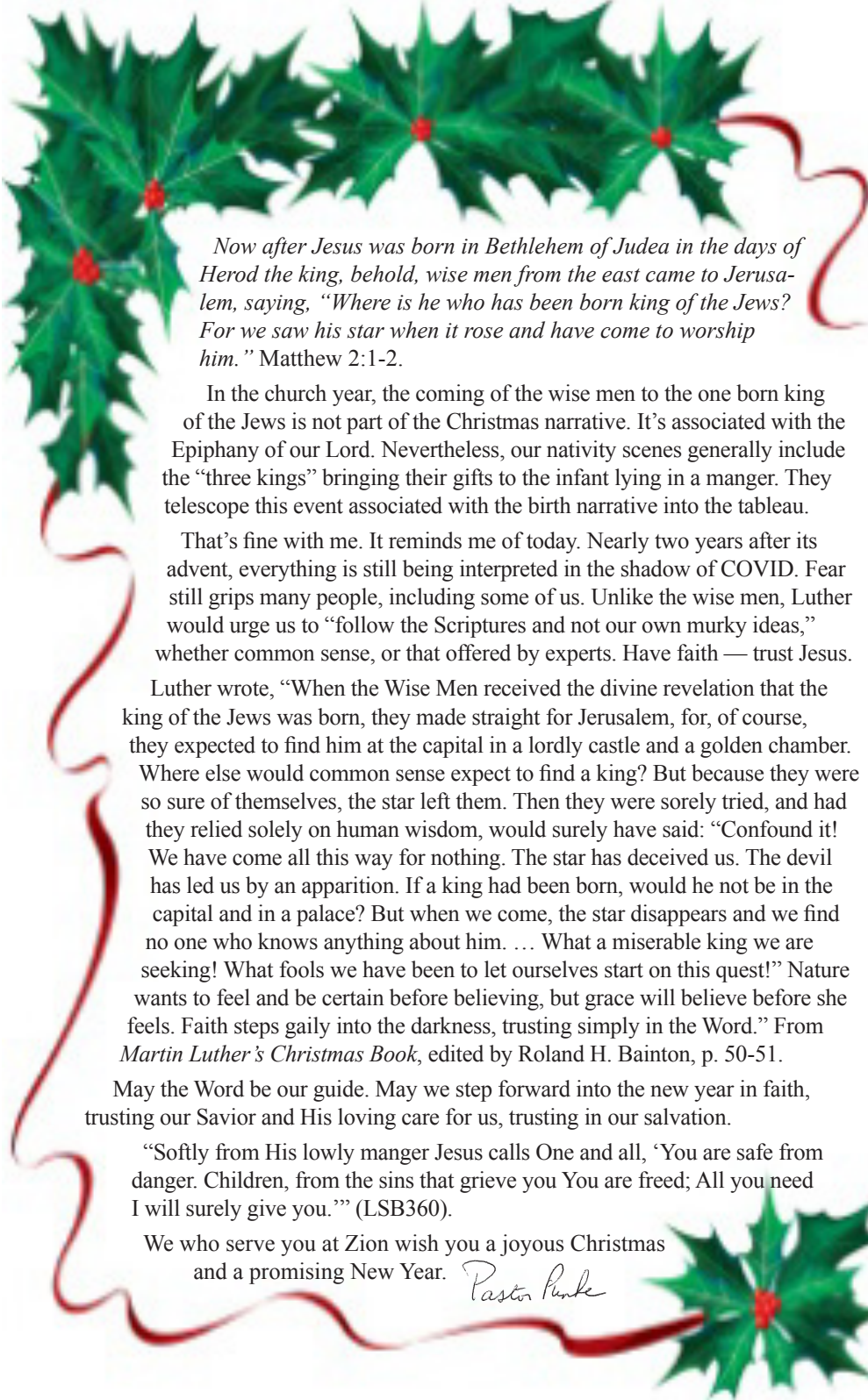
# What Doctor Luther Says:

## *About the Proper Focus of the Christmas Story*

[T]he evangelist John preached of the Word, which was in the beginning, which was with God the Father, which was eternal God with the Father, through which all things were created, which was the Life and Light of mankind shining into the darkness, which came into the world, which dwelt among men, ....

John fails to mention Mary, the Lord's mother, with as much as a word. Luke, however, does write at some length in his second chapter about Christ's birth from her in Bethlehem. John gave the mother scant attention. Paul also disposes of her with the brief words "born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4). For the greater the men of God and the larger the measure of the Spirit in them, the greater the diligence and attention they devote to the Son rather than to the mother. The outstanding men have always insisted that we fasten our gaze on the fruit, that is, the Son of God, who made and created all, who is the Light of the world, and who became true man. To be sure, Mary was a holy, pure, and chaste virgin, favored among women, as the angel assured her in Luke 1:42 and as she herself sang in her song: "Henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). But her one concern was the incarnation of the true Son of God. John refers to Mary in chapter two of his Gospel. Here he reports that Christ almost chided her at the marriage at Cana, saying to her: "O woman, what have you to do with Me?" His one purpose was the proper portrayal of the person of Christ.

*Luther's Works, 22:109-10.*



*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "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." Matthew 2:1-2.*

In the church year, the coming of the wise men to the one born king of the Jews is not part of the Christmas narrative. It's associated with the Epiphany of our Lord. Nevertheless, our nativity scenes generally include the "three kings" bringing their gifts to the infant lying in a manger. They telescope this event associated with the birth narrative into the tableau.

That's fine with me. It reminds me of today. Nearly two years after its advent, everything is still being interpreted in the shadow of COVID. Fear still grips many people, including some of us. Unlike the wise men, Luther would urge us to "follow the Scriptures and not our own murky ideas," whether common sense, or that offered by experts. Have faith — trust Jesus.

Luther wrote, "When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them. Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition. If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. . . . What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on this quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word." From *Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, edited by Roland H. Bainton, p. 50-51.

May the Word be our guide. May we step forward into the new year in faith, trusting our Savior and His loving care for us, trusting in our salvation.

"Softly from His lowly manger Jesus calls One and all, 'You are safe from danger. Children, from the sins that grieve you You are freed; All you need I will surely give you.'" (LSB360).

We who serve you at Zion wish you a joyous Christmas  
and a promising New Year.

*Pastor Pank*

