



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

December 1, 2024 ✚ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Have you ever wondered what the prophet Isaiah would say to us today? During Advent this year we have the opportunity to find out! Each week "Isaiah" will address the congregation and explain the meaning and background behind his most well-known prophecies about the coming of Christ. In this week's theme, The Light, Isaiah reveals insights about Christ, who came to lighten our dark world of sin with his love. (Isaiah 2:1-5)

✚ GATHERING ✚

Prelude

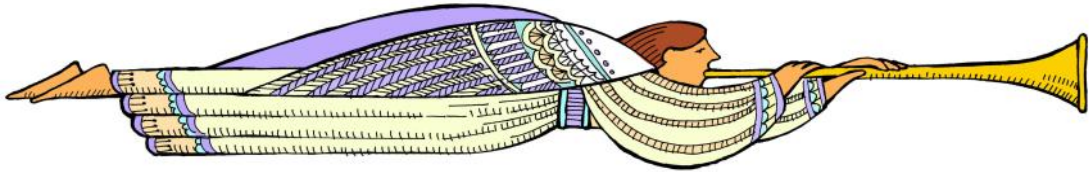
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





The First Sunday of Advent

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, One God,
who forgives all our sin; whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

The Son of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing,
so that we may gather under the wings of God's mercy. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the God of Light and Hope.

(Silence for meditation & self-examination)

Advent Lord,

because of our sin, we too often live in hopelessness.

**We get caught up in the brokenness, heartache
and pain of this current world.**

**Lead us to see how you brought hope into our hopelessness
when you brought light into our darkness.**

**Shine your bright star of hope into our lives
and make us new by your grace. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

He is the Bright Star of Bethlehem. When he was born to save us
he shattered the darkness of our sin, bringing hope to the world.

Now we live in this sure and certain hope
that all our sins are forgiven through Christ!

Amen. Thanks be to God, the Light of the world.

Litany for the New Church Year

God says, "See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up. Do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

The God, whose mercies are new to us every morning, has brought us by His grace to this new day, to this new Advent, and to this new Church Year.

In the confidence that we are sustained by His grace, we enter into this new church year.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

God's abundant and unending love

far exceeds the volume of this year's needs.

Let us rejoice with thanks and embrace another year of God's grace.

God: Father, Son and Spirit dear,

to all our pleas incline thine ear.

Upon our lives rich blessing trace,

in this new year of your unending grace. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Come, Walk Into the Light

(Tune: #717)



1 Come, walk in - to the light to meet our glor - ious King
2 The Spir - it gives us peace that fills our hearts with hope
3 This life a jour - ney is through val - leys dark and gray,
4 While in this world we wait for Christ a - gain to come,
5 The Child, God's on - ly Son, brings heav - en's pres - ence here



to flee the dark - ness of the night and glad - some prais - es bring.
to give our sin - sick souls re - lease and with our tri - als cope.
But God walks with all who are his to help a - long the way.
God grant us grace to cel - e - brate un - til our la - bor's done.
to make us with the Fa - ther one and his own chil - dren dear.

Words: Creative Communications for the Parish. Used y permission.
Music: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776
Public Domain

Advent Litany

Advent is upon us, a season of wondering, watching and waiting.

Come into our world, Lord Jesus.

We look for signs of God's presence around us,
waiting for God to come in new ways.

Come into our lives, Lord Jesus.

We wait with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus.

Come! Let us worship God who is breaking into
our world, our lives, and our hearts in new ways!

Come unto us, Lord Jesus, and do something new in us. Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

From the one who is, who was, and who is to come,
from the Almighty Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit:
grace, light, and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Hark the Glad Sound

Bell Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Family

One candle is lit to remind us that we walk in the light of the Lord.

The light of Jesus overcomes the darkness of sin.

The light of Jesus shatters the darkness of despair.

The light of Jesus drives out even the darkness of death.

One candle is lit to remind us that we walk in the light of the Lord.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Advent Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the World.

Teach us that walking in your light means

walking under the favor of your forgiveness,

walking with your very presence, receiving your grace-filled care,

and living according to your truth. Shine your perfect light upon us and drive out all the darkness of sin, death and the devil. **Amen.**

(Advent Family lights one candle as the hymn is sung.)

Advent Wreath Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #257 (v #1)

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite;
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Music: French processional, 15th cent. Public Domain

✚ **WORD** ✚

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
 they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!
 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

ELW setting 8

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Nicene Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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.

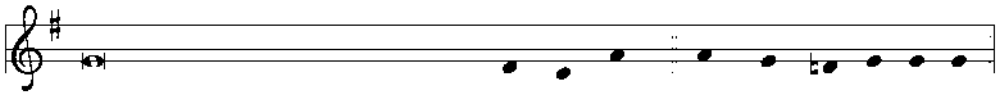
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

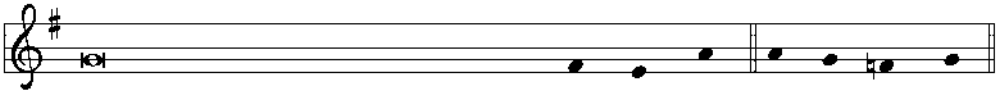
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



From war, bloodshed, and violence;
 from corrupt and unjust government;
 from sedi - tion and treason: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**

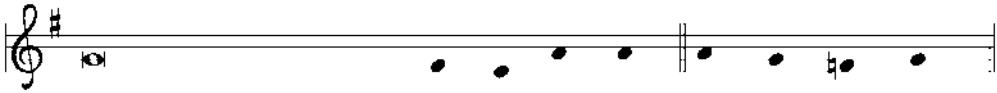
From epidemic, drought, and famine;
 from fire and flood, earthquake,
 lightning, and storm,
 and from ever - last - ing death: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**



By the mystery of your incarnation; by your ho - ly birth: **Help us, good Lord.**

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
 by your agony and bloody sweat;
 by your cross and suffering; by your death and burial: **Help us, good Lord.**

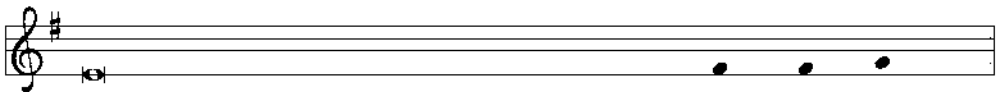
By your resurrection and ascension;
 by the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: **Help us, good Lord.**



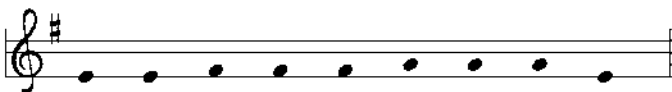
In all time of our tribulation;
 in all time of our prosperity;
 in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment: **Save us, good Lord.**



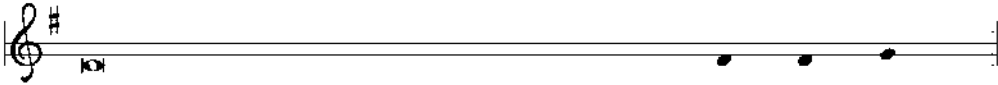
Though unworthy, we im - plore you to hear us, Lord our God.



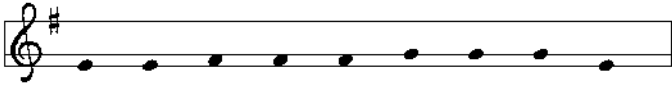
To rule and govern your holy catholic church;
 to guide all servants of your church
 in the love of your word and in holiness of life;
 to put an end to all schisms
 and causes of offense to those who would believe;
 and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone a - stray:



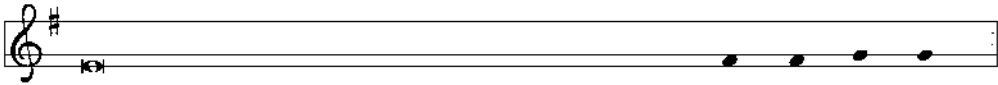
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



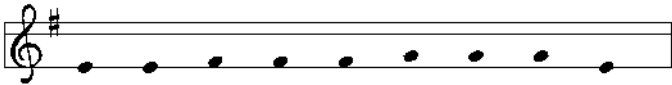
To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful workers into your harvest;
to accompany your word with your Spirit and power;
to raise up those who fall
and to strengthen those who stand;
and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the dis - tressed:



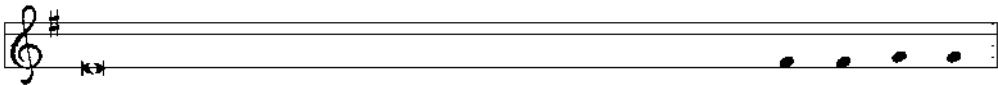
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



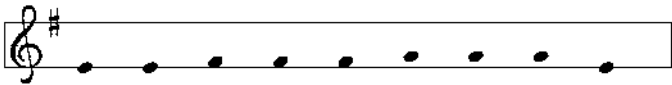
To give to all nations justice and peace;
to preserve our country from discord and strife;
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;
and to bless and guide all our peo - ple:



We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.

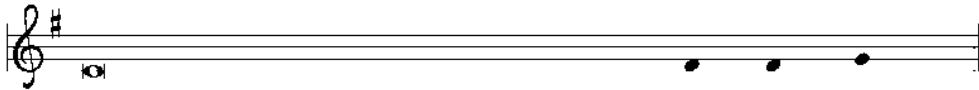


To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;
to protect and guide all who travel;
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;
to watch over children and to guide the young;
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;
to support, comfort, and guide
all orphans, widowers, and widows;
and to have mercy on all your peo - ple:

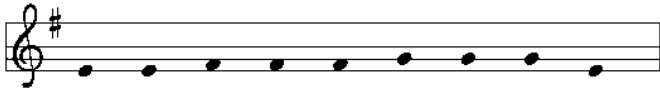


We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.

pray



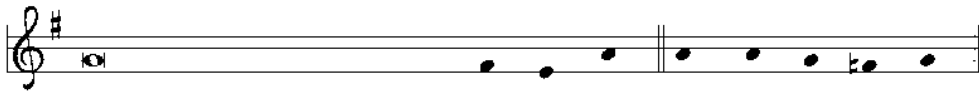
To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,
and to reconcile us to them;
to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures
of the earth, the sea, and the air;
and graciously to hear our prayers:



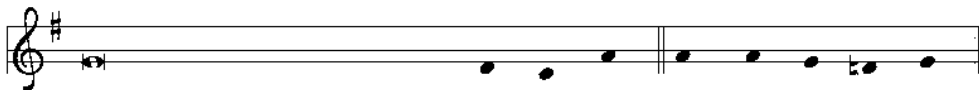
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. we im - plore you to hear us.



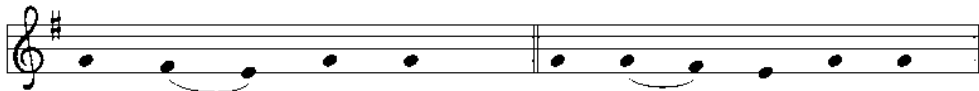
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



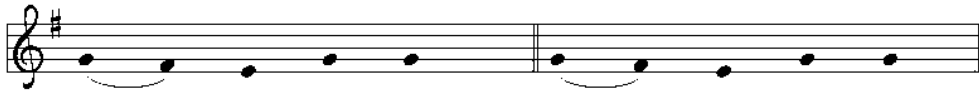
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; give us peace. A - men.



O Christ, hear us. In mer - cy hear us.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

In the Bleak Midwinter

#294 (v. 3)



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894
Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934
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✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **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 our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW setting 8



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,

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

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus 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.**

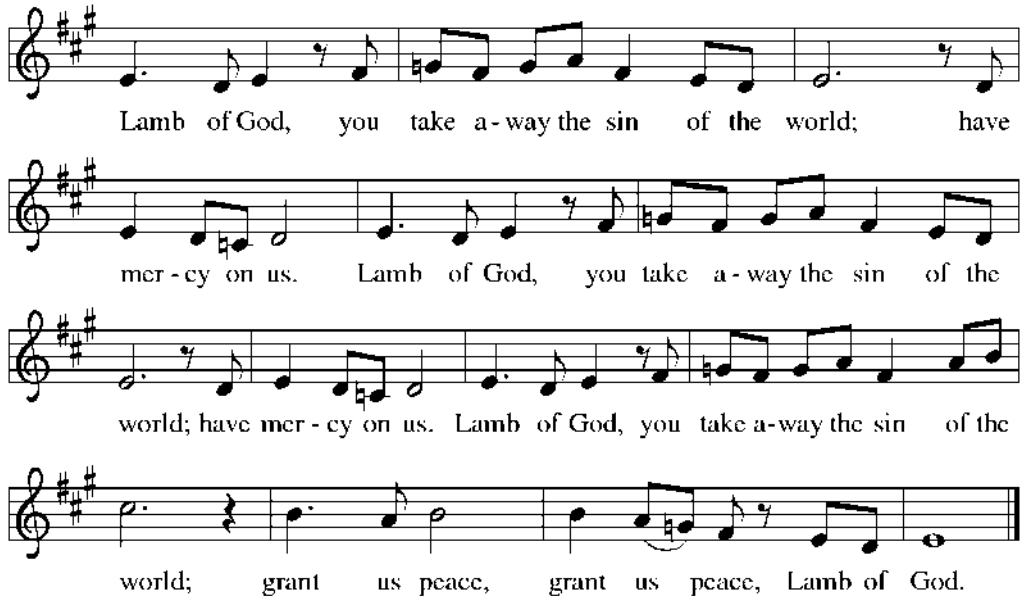
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

ELW setting 8



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

*The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.*

Distribution Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

#289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply. ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



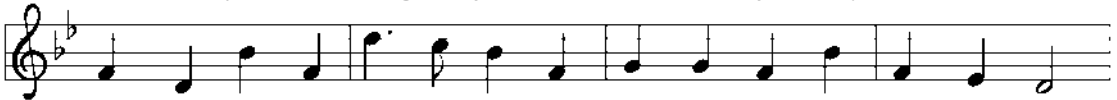
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958
Public Domain



Distribution Hymn *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

#275



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879
Public Domain

Table Blessing

May the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

God for whom we wait,

**in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things.**

**Send us forth to make known your deeds
and to proclaim the greatness of your name;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

From Christ, who is the Light of the world, the Light of all nations, and the glory of God's people, Israel, be all grace, and mercy, and peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Shine, Jesus, Shine

#671

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -
dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

Hymn continues on the next page.

set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine on me, shine on me:

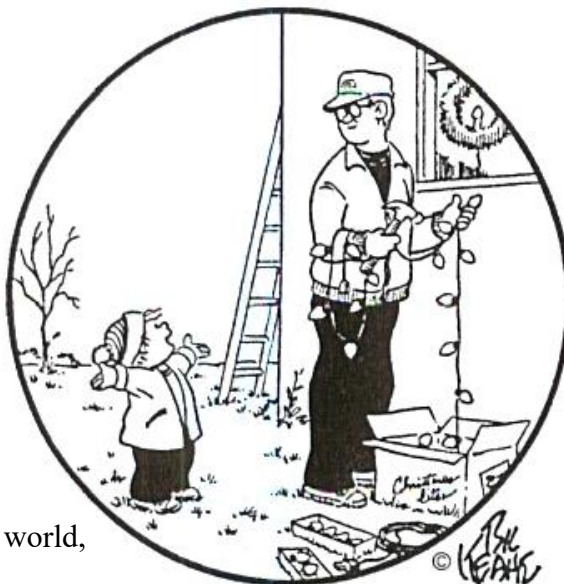
Refrain

Text & Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



from *The Joyful Noisemaker*
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“Christmas lights up the world,
 doesn’t it Daddy?”

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