

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620 www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

December 3, 2023 + SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we welcome you to our Advent worship series We Three Kings, which takes a look at three ancient monarchs whose reigns impacted directly on the coming of Christ. In this week's service, we contemplate the life of Caesar Augustus, who ruled over the entire Roman Empire at the time of Christ's birth. His census brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. His Pax Romana pointed to the peace of Christ to come. And his roads brought people together like never before. We are reminded in the life of Augustus that all things come together in God's time.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

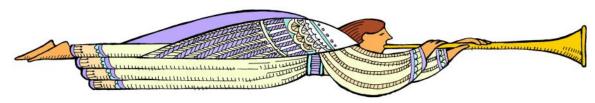
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

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 Second Sunday of Advent

Confession & Forgiveness

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

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself, making peace through the blood of the cross.

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

(Silence is kept for self-reflection and confession.)

Most holy and almighty God,

we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have run from your ways

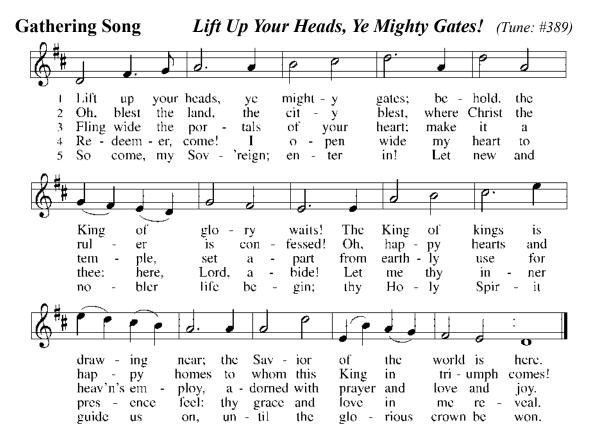
and embraced the darkness of this present evil age.

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, your only Son, and our only Savior.

Friends in Christ, if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.

In Jesus' name, you are forgiven and loved with an everlasting love! May the glory of the Lord continue to shine upon us all. Amen.



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878 Music: T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789 Public Domain



Advent Litany

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice.

Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.

Then the eyes of those who have sight will not be closed, and the ears of those who have hearing will listen.

The minds of the rash will have good judgment, and the tongues of the stammerers will speak readily and distinctly.

A fool will no longer be called noble, nor a villain said to be honorable. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.

The effect of righteousness will be peace, the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. God's people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, in a quiet resting place.

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

O Come All Ye Faithful

SS Bell Choir

Prayer of the Day

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

Stir up, O Lord, your people of every nation to follow you in their lives and wait for your arrival in Bethlehem with patience.

Help us to expect things to happen in God the Father's time and not our own.

Give us humility not to trumpet our own efforts and accomplishments, but to be grateful for what you have done in and through us.

All the world belongs to you. Rule in our hearts with power and might that peace may reign forevermore. Amen.

Advent Wreath Hymn

(Tune #277)

In darkness enshrouded, the world waits for light
To shatter the shadowy darkness of night.
To greenery circled, the faithful draw near
And longingly listen, God's message to hear.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A voice cries, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord." The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Be ready always, with your lamps lit and your hearts prepared. From Bethlehem shall he come forth who shall feed his flock in the strength of the Lord.

Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you.

(Advent Family lights two candles as the hymn is sung.)

Two flames, soft and yellow like straw, light as down,
Prepared in a manger in Bethlehem town,
Now wait for a baby, the King of the earth.
Our Savior is coming! Prepare for his birth!

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.

But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

Be ready always, with your lamps lit and your hearts prepared.

Oh, keep us, Lord Jesus, in your mighty care
As for your arrival your people prepare.
The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,
That hearts of all people in faith may ignite.

+ WORD +

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

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

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

Psalm 96:7-13

Let us read Psalm 96 responsively.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it: let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

He has established the world; it shall never be moved.

Scripture Reading

Romans 13:1-4

A reading from Romans.

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴ for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.





Music: attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539 Public Domain

Holy Gospel Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according St. Mark, the 1st Chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

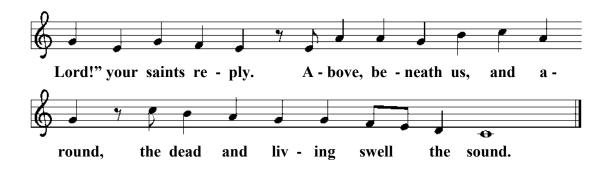
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

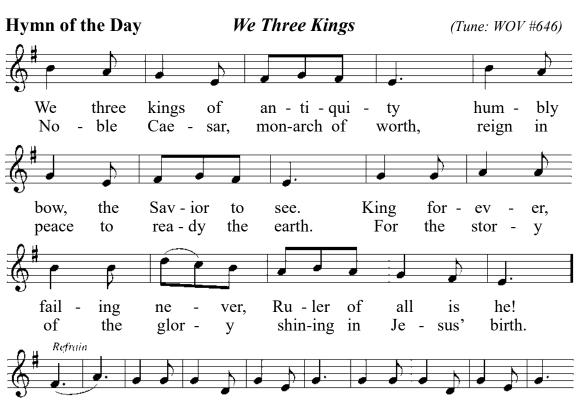




Music: attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539 Public Domain

Children's Time Sermon

Caesar Augustus



Oh - oh, Christ the Sav-ior, Christ the Lord, Christ by heav'n and earth a-dored! Oh - oh, Christ the Sav-ior, Christ the King, Christ whose birth the an-gels sing!



Come and praise him, an-thems raise him praise the King with one ac - cord! Bow be - fore him, kneel, a - dore him; let the world its trib -ute bring!

Text: © Creative Communications for the Parish. Used by permission Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891; Public Domain

+ LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT +

The Holy Baptism of Parker James Roberg

In Baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are born children of a fallen humanity;

by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ.

Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.

Parents/Godparents: We present **Parker James Roberg** for Holy Baptism. Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? Parents: We do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life? *Parents:* We do.

Godparents, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *Godparents*: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support *Parker James* and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

Profession of Faith

I ask you all to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Prayers of the People

P With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

(A brief silence is kept.)

- A O King of kings and Lord of lords, reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads.

 Heal the earth where it longs for renewal.

 Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures.

 Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- P O King of kings and Lord of lords, fill us to everlasting with your love and care that the time we spend on earth and in heaven is centered on you and blessed by you.

 Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- A O King of kings and Lord of lords, count us among your family and your people through your presence with us and through your forgiveness of all of our sins. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- P O King of kings and Lord of lords, comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten, *especially*... Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**
- A O King of kings and Lord of lords, bring peace to our nation and all the nations of the world, and calm our troubled hearts with words of comfort and provision. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- P Here other intercessions may be offered aloud or in silence... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

- A O King of kings and Lord of lords, offer us a place in your realm that we may praise you night and day for the gifts you have so graciously bestowed on us.

 Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Parker James Roberg is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the

→ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. *Parker James*, you belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray. (A brief silence is kept.)
We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give your daughters and sons new birth,
cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Parker James* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Parker James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Council Rep.: Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ
and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Jesus Loves You #595

Jesus loves YOU this we know for the Bible tells us so. Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves YOU. Yes, Jesus loves You. Yes, Jesus loves YOU, the Bible tells us so.

Peace

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

+ OFFERING +

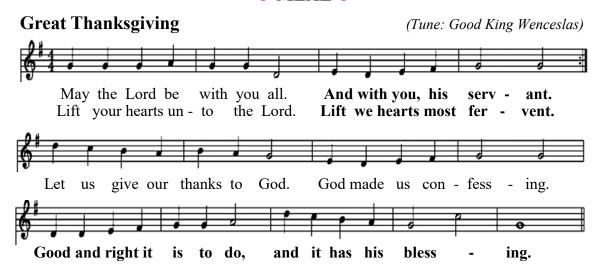


Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

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+ MEAL +



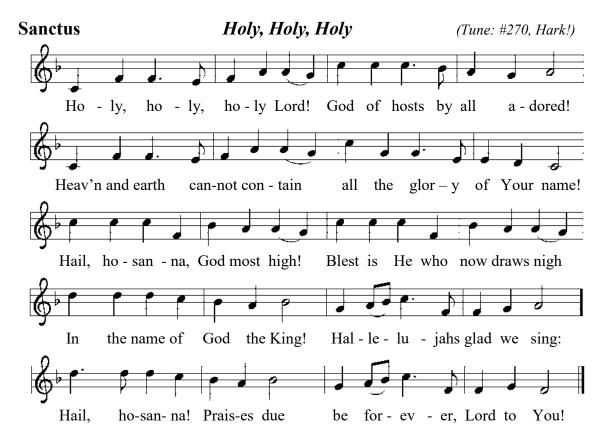
Proper Preface

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:



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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, he 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.**

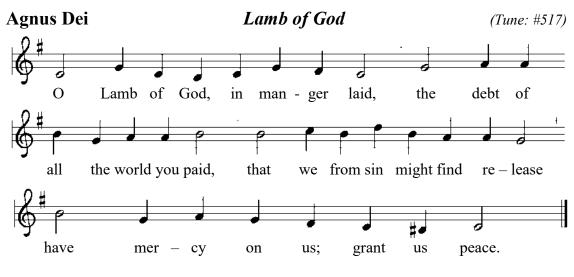
Lord's Prayer

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.



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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.





Text: English traditional

Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

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Distribution Hymn

What Child Is This

#296



- I What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 - Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste bring him laud, the babe. the of Mar - y! to son hail. hail the Word made flesh. the babe. the son of Mar - y! joy, joy, for Christ is born. the babe. the son of Mar - v!

> Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898 Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

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Table Blessing

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,

you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.

Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

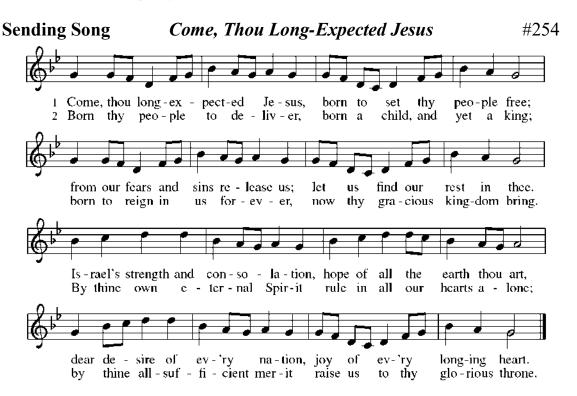
+ SENDING +

Announcements

Benediction

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for-ever and ever. Amen.



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898 Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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TODAY we celebrate

the gift of God's grace as

Parker James Roberg

is Baptized in the name of

the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

Parker was born on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 10:55pm. He weighed 4lbs., 15oz. and was 17.75" long.

Proud Parents: Mikaela & Zach Roberg
Big Brother: Owen Lee Roberg

Godparents:
Branden & Jaclynn Roberg
Sam & Justin Dearmont
Sarah Boyce
Trevor Salber

Proud Grandparents:

Jody & Greg Berner

Dave & Jolene Roberg

Proud Great-Grandparents: **Don Roberg Mickey Rinehart**

Heavenly Great-Grandparents:
George L Marcella Berner
Ramona Coakes
Marilyn Roberg

May God continue to bless them all with his abundant love and grace.





Baptism Word Search

Parker James Roberg Mikaela Roberg Zach Roberg Owen Roberg Sarah Boyce Sam Dearmont Justin Dearmont Branden Roberg Jaclynn Roberg Trevor Salber Greg Berner Jody Berner Dave Roberg Jolene Roberg George Berner Marcella Berner Ramona Coakes Mickey Rinehart Don Roberg Marilyn Roberg

Baby Boy Born Bless Dad Faith Family Font Gift God Grace Heart Holy Baptism Holy Spirit Hope Jesus Loves You Joy Lord

Love

Mom

Oil

Р	S	A	L	В	Ε	R	Ε	Ν	R	Ε	В	0	R	Ν
В	A	В	У	В	0	У	Ε	K	С	I	M	Т	0	0
G	M	R	0	В	Ε	R	G	0	D	Ε	W	Ν	В	D
R	M	Ι	K	A	Ε	L	A	M	R	0	В	Ε	R	G
Ε	Т	U	В	Ε	R	Ν	Ε	R	R	G	R	M	A	R
G	R	Ε	В	0	R	Н	Z	D	Н	Ν	G	A	Ν	Ε
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Т	0	Ε	Ε	L	I	Z	Ν	M	A	В	R	A	Ν	R
J	R	٧	R	F	A	I	Т	Н	Ε	S	G	S	0	Ν
G	0	0	Ν	D	R	0	L	R	0	S	Ε	G	R	У
R	В	L	Ε	S	S	Ν	G	A	Ν	У	Ν	R	I	Ε
Ε	Ε	M	R	Ν	У	L	I	R	A	M	Ν	Ε	Ν	Т
В	R	Ε	Т	A	W	U	M	R	M	A	У	В	Ε	Ν
0	G	Ε	M	S	I	Т	Р	A	В	У	L	0	Н	0
R	F	L	Ε	Р	0	Н	A	L	L	Ε	С	R	A	M
S	A	I	Ν	G	R	Ε	В	0	R	L	A	У	R	R
Р	M	M	С	Н	U	R	С	Н	U	Ν	J	0	Т	A
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I	У	S	Ε	K	A	0	С	У	S	Ε	٧	0	L	Т
Т	Ν	0	F	G	R	A	С	Ε	J	Ε	S	υ	S	U
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Pray Sacrament Sing Smile

Son Water Word Zion Lutheran Church

