



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

www.zionalbion.org + office [@zionalbion.org](https://www.facebook.com/zionalbion) + 402-395-2043

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

December 7, 2025 ✚ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we continue our Advent worship series, Yet in Thy Dark Streets Shineth. In this service, we step into Nazareth, the small hometown of Mary and Joseph — a town in which, through Gabriel's visit, God begins to make his home with us. Our time in this place will remind us that Jesus makes his home with us in our hearts this Christmas and dwells with us always.

✚ GATHERING ✚

Prelude

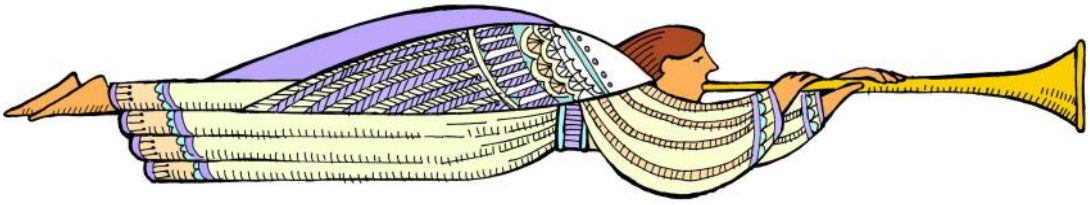
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

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.

God is light;
in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him, yet walk in darkness,
we lie and do not live by the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light,
**we have fellowship with one another
and the blood of Jesus purifies us from sin.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.
(Silence for meditation & self-examination)

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.
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.

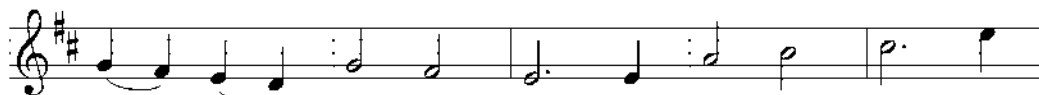
Opening Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

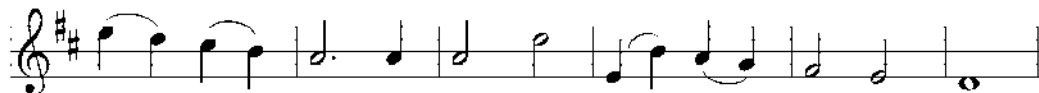
(Tune #389)



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold, the
2 Oh, blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
5 So come, my Sov - 'reign; en - ter in! Let new and



King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
rul - er is con - fessed! Oh, hap - py hearts and
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner
no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spir - it



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.
guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878

Music: T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

Public Domain

Advent Litany

O Sign for all peoples:

Come quickly to deliver us!

O KEY OF DAVID, come!

You open and no one can close; you close and no one can open.

O Royal Power of Israel:

Break down the walls of prison death!

O RADIANT DAWN, come!

Shine on those who dwell in deadly darkness.

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.

Kyrie

Hark the Glad Sound

Bell Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Thayer Family

In the second week of Advent we light the Candle of Peace.

Today we remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ,
of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David.

The prophet Isaiah called Christ “the Prince of Peace.”

**The prophets told us how he would rule the world wisely
and bless all the nations.**

Jesus said: “Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

**Christ comes as God with us to bring us peace in this life
and the promise of everlasting peace.**

We light the Candle of Peace
to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace
and that through him real peace is found.

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place.

**As we look at this candle
we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.**

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

Advent Wreath Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light

(#715)



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
 © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press
 Music: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776
 Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-711706

Advent Prayer

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

Loving God,

we thank you for your gift of love

brought to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Send us your Spirit to prepare our hearts to receive him.

Bless our worship as you help us to hear and do your Word.

We ask this in the name of the coming Christ. **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

Old Scripture Reading

Judges 13:2-7

A reading from Judges.

²There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren, having borne no children.

³And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive

and bear a son. ⁴Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink or to eat anything unclean, ⁵for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”

⁶Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name, ⁷but he said to me, ‘You shall conceive and bear a son. So then, drink no wine or strong drink and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.’”

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

Psalm 128

Let us read Psalm 128 responsively

¹Happy are they all who fear the Lord,
and who follow in God’s ways!

**²You shall eat the fruit of your labor;
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.**

³Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house,
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

⁴The one who fears the Lord shall thus indeed be blessed.

⁵The Lord bless you from Zion,
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**⁶May you live to see your children’s children;
may peace be upon Israel.**

New Testament Reading

Luke 1:26-33

A reading from Luke.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in

your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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 ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

ELW setting 10



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Holy Gospel

John 1:40-46

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

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

Hymn of the Day

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

#272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



scers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2;
Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4
Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621
Public Domain

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

- P** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God,
trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations,
and the whole creation.
- A brief silence is kept.*
- L** With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world.
Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty,
access to housing, and equity among peoples.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

- P With counsel and might, move us to care for creation.
As we dream of the day
when all creatures will flourish alongside one another,
guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- L With righteousness and faithfulness,
encourage nations to live in harmony with one another.
We pray for international student and teacher exchanges,
for our partner churches, and for the shared mission
of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- P With steadfastness and encouragement,
strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression,
or disease, *especially*... Renew the spirits of those
recovering from surgery and medical procedures.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- L With welcome and hospitality,
embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides.
In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation,
may we serve in the way of Christ.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- L With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith.
Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Peace

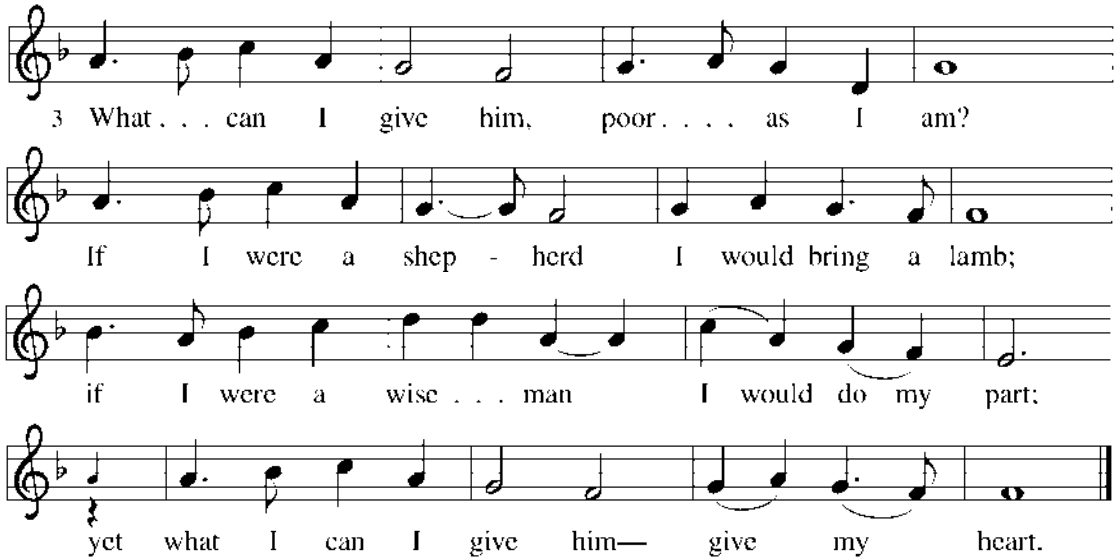
The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✠ 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
Public Domain

✠ 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

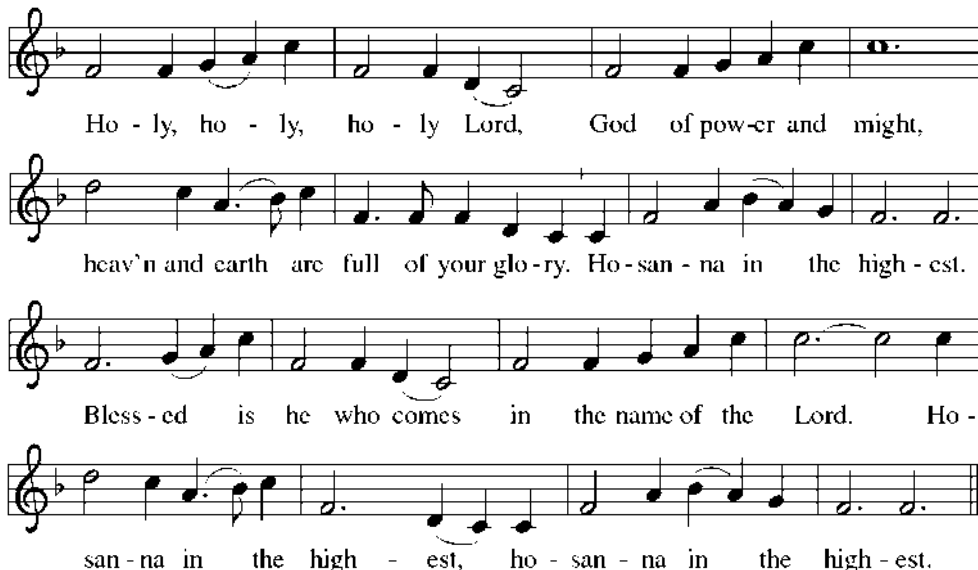
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, 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 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#282



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?

2 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 to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 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 - y!

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876
 Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900
 Public Domain

Distribution Hymn

What Child Is This

#296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 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 to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 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 - y!

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

Table Blessing

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

Post-Communion Prayer

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

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

**Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you in every dark place

and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you

with the brightness of his everlasting light, and grant you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#547



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.; © 1964 World Library Publications, IL 60131.
Reprinted with permission under One License #A-711706
Music: Welsh folk tune Public Domain

Dismissal

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

ADVENT

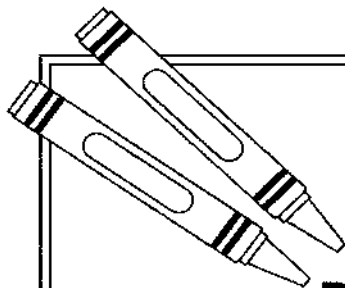
Liturgy reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 15447-LIT. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Other liturgy reprinted with permission from Creative Communications for the Parish, Interviews with Isaiah Advent worship kit. © 2012, a division of Bayard, Inc. All rights reserved.



12-7

© 2010 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

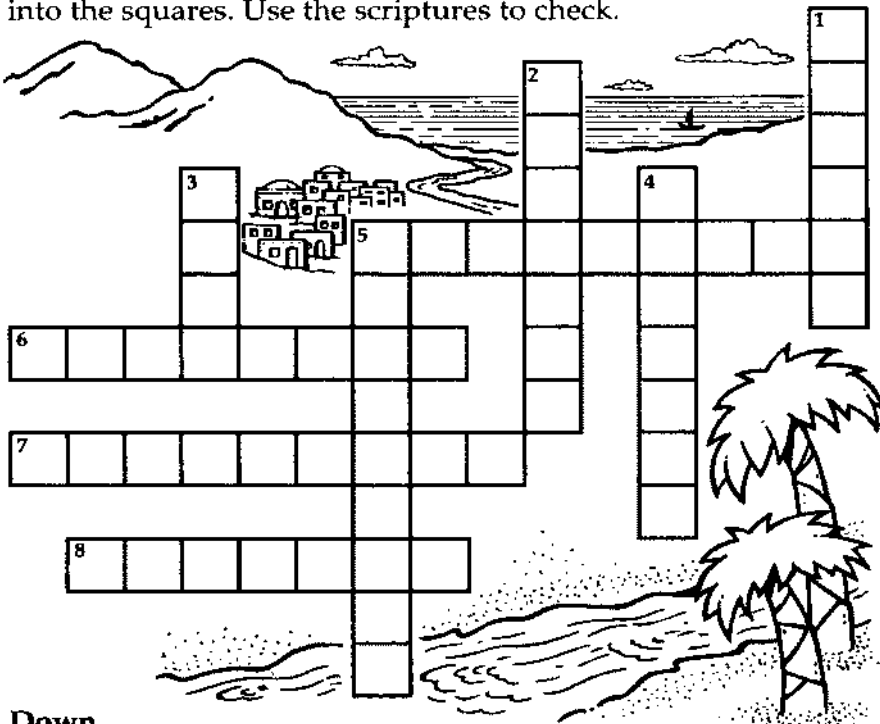
**“... Grandma said Christmas is just
around the corner.”**



Just for KIDS

Places in Jesus' life

Find these important places in the life of Jesus. Fit them into the squares. Use the scriptures to check.

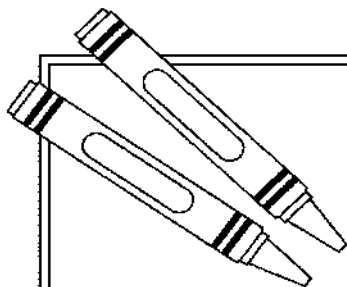


Down

1. The river where Jesus was baptized. (Matthew 3:13)
2. Where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. (John 11:1)
3. Where the first miracle was performed. (John 2:11)
4. Where Jesus called Philip to follow him. (John 1:43)
5. Where Jesus was born. (Luke 2:4)

Across

5. Where Jesus fed the 5000. (Luke 9:10)
6. Where Jesus grew up. (Luke 2:39)
7. Where Jesus went to the temple at age 12. (Luke 2:41)
8. Where Jesus talked to Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:1)



Just for KIDS

Worship

People gather to worship God in many different places. Church buildings have different names. But each church has many of the same things in the church building and many of the same parts in the worship service. We worship the same God!

Here are some parts of worship and churches that are the same for many. Circle them in the puzzle. You will find them up, down, diagonal and across.

PRAISE
PARDON
SCRIPTURE
COMMUNION
MEN

CONFESSION
OFFERING
SERMON
AFFIRMATION
CHILDREN

HYMNS
CANDLES
BIBLE
CROSS
GOD

PRAYER
MUSIC
ALTAR
WOMEN

C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O	N	A
O	R	P	A	R	D	O	N	C	F
N	A	O	M	U	S	I	C	A	F
F	T	F	S	W	O	M	E	N	I
E	L	F	A	S	B	C	D	D	R
S	A	E	B	I	B	L	E	L	M
S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E	A
I	G	I	E	H	Y	M	N	S	T
O	O	N	P	R	A	Y	E	R	I
N	D	G	S	E	R	M	O	N	O
P	R	A	I	S	E	M	E	N	N
C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	J	E

