

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

November 26, 2023 + FIRST 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 service we ponder the life of King David, who served as a forerunner of the Messiah—a child born in the little town of Bethlehem, a ruler strong in battle and a shepherd who sang over his sheep. We are reminded in the life of David that Jesus is our King come to earth, our Defeater of all opponents and our Protector who watches over us.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

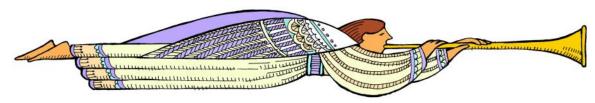
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

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.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895 Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

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Litany for the New Church Year

God of new beginnings,

at the entrance to this new church year we worship you.

You have been merciful to us.

You have been patient with us.

Your love and forgiveness have accompanied us.

We worship your wisdom and praise your gracious providence.

God of all time and space, grant us your presence and lead us through the journey of this new church year. Give us hope for the journey and shine your light upon our path.

Give us peace in our minds and spirits and pour your joy into our hearts.

Open our eyes to your glory, to our own shortcomings, and to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God of love and grace, your unending love and abundant grace have far exceeded the volume of this year's needs.

Continue to bless us with hope and faith, we pray, as we embrace another year of God's love and grace. Amen.

Advent Litany

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. "Hail, O favored one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

But Mary was much perplexed by the words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David.

"He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)
Stir up, O Lord, your people to pray to you
and prepare for you to usher in your kingdom
through your birth in the same town of King David's birth.
O Son of David and Son of God, reign in our hearts with your love.
Guide us as a good shepherd would
and lead us to the pastures of your paradise in heaven.
Rule over us with your mighty power until we find our rest in you.
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

Send out your light and your truth, O Lord; let them be our guide. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

And God said, "Let there be light!"

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Did not our hearts burn within us while he spoke to us and opened the Scriptures for us?

"Let the prophet who has my word speak my word faithfully," says the Lord. "Is not my word a fire?"

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

One candle is burning--through darkness shines light, As prophets were yearning for God's holy might. To people in darkness came promises new--The promise of Jesus is faithful and true.

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.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

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

1 Samuel 17:19-23, 32-37

A reading from First Samuel.

¹⁹Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. ²¹Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. ²²David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. ²³As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

³²David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." ³⁴But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. ³⁶Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this

Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 93

Let us read Psalm 93 responsively.

The Lord is King, he is robed in majesty.

The Lord is robed, he is girded with strength.

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

Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord,

the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.

More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord!

Your decrees are very sure.

Holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:22-36

A reading from Acts.

²²You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,

nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

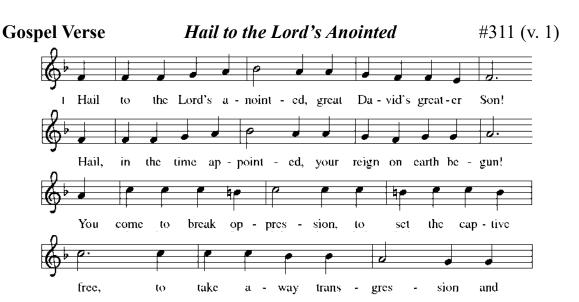
³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool." '

³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**





Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Music: Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602 Public Domain

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according St. Mark, the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

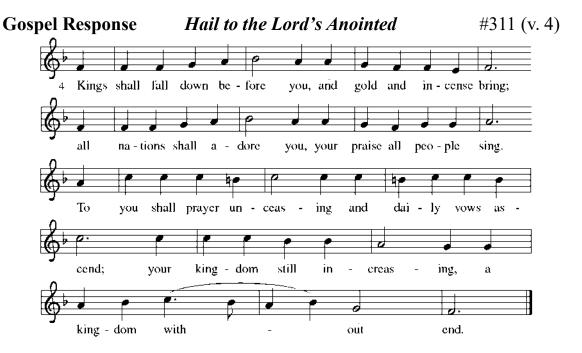
²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

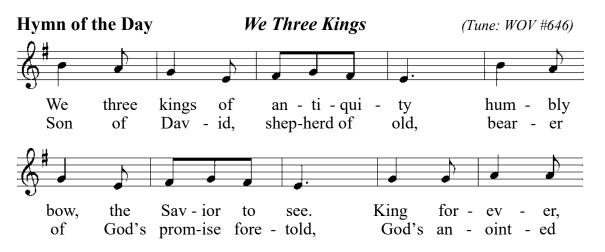
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

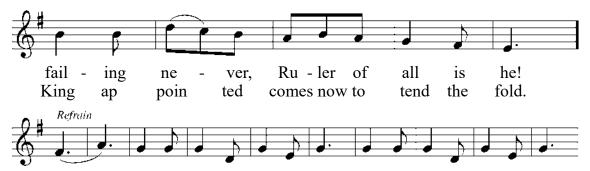


Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Music: Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602 Public Domain

Children's Time Sermon

King David





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

Apostles' Creed

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

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

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.

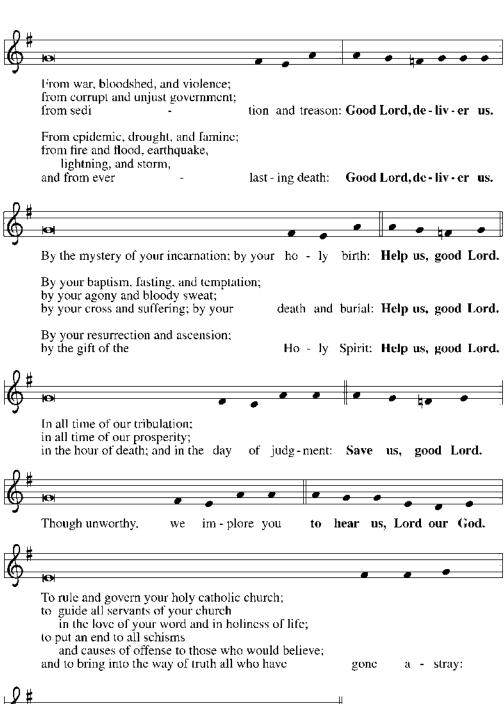
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

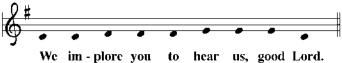
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the cunning assaults of the devil; from an unprepared and

e - vil death: Good Lord, de - liv - er us.







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

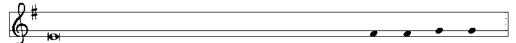
and to strengthen those who stand;

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;

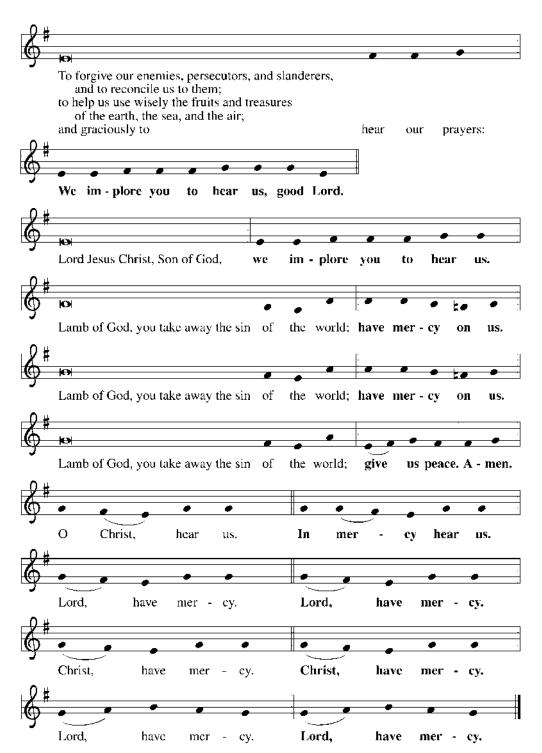
to support, comfort, and guide

all orphans, widowers, and widows; and to have mercy on

all your peo-ple:



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



Peace

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

+ OFFERING +

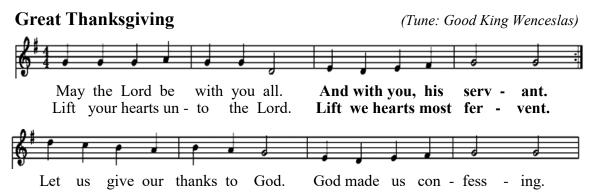


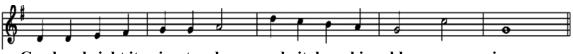
Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

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+ MEAL +





Good and right it is to do, and it has his bless - ing.

Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

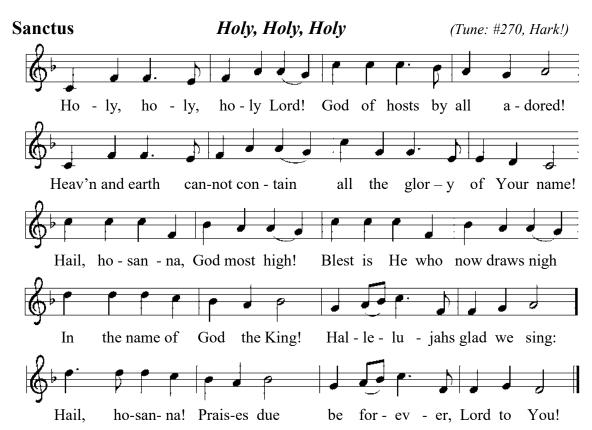
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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:



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.**

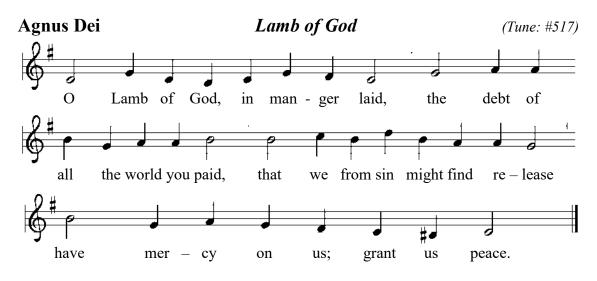
Lord's Prayer

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: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Music: attr. John Francis Wade; Public Domain





Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Music: Polish carol

Table Blessing

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

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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

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



5 Before the dawning day let sin be put to flight; no longer let the law hold sway, but walk in freedom's light. 6 All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt. Music: Johann B. Konig, 1691-1758, adapt. Public Domain

Dismissal

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

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Advent Word Search

M G 1 S A T RAVE Α S A NW E G E T 1 L B E T Н LE Н E M V Ρ F Н Α DVE Ν T E Α M D Α R Α N W AI T C R Α S 0 Ν G N D 0 K Y V 0 R D J SE 0 Р Н E N W M Α N G ER D N Z E D Α ART Н SKY

ADORE
ADVENT
AGE
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
DAVID
DONKEY
HATL

JOSEPH LORD LOVE MAGI MARY MANGER NAZARETH NEW

PRAYER SAVE SKY SONG STAR TRAVEL WAIT WISE



Christmas Bell Maze

