



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

November 30, 2025 ⁺ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we begin our Advent worship series, Yet in Thy Dark Streets Shineth. In this service, we welcome you to Jerusalem at the time of Zechariah — a world where God is far off, where repentance is necessary, and where the blood of sacrifice serves as the only point of connection between God's people and their God. Our need for Jesus becomes clear in this place as we await the coming of the Christ Child for the salvation of our souls.

⁺ GATHERING ⁺

Prelude

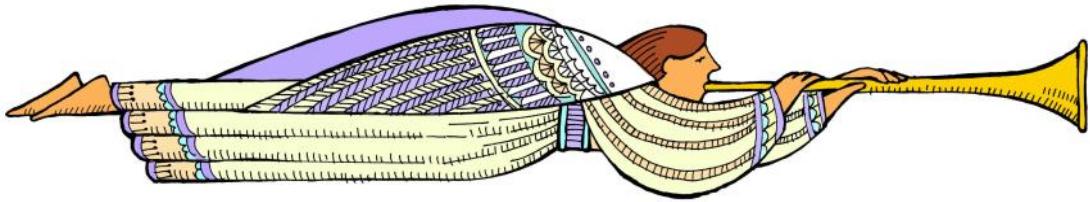
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

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.

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.

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.**

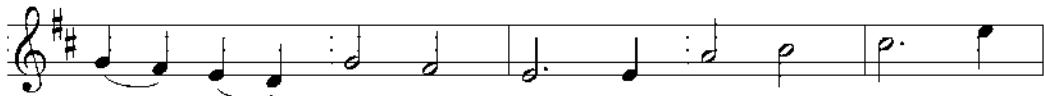
Opening Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

(Tune #389)

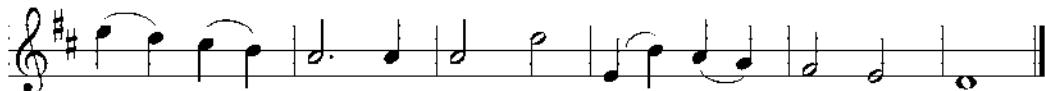


1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold, the
2 Oh, blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
5 So come, my Sov - 'reign; en - ter in! Let new and



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

Hymn continues on the next page.



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 - doned 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 WISDOM, come!

You govern all creation with your strong yet tender care.

O holy Word of God:

Come; teach us; make us wise!

O SACRED LORD, come!

**You showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush
and gave him the Law on Mount Sinai.**

O Ruler of the house of Israel:

Stretch out your arm and save us!

O BRANCH OF JESSE, come!

Kings are silent in your presence and nations bow before you.

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

#239 (v. 1&4)



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

promised long; let ev'ry heart pre -
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal
pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Family

We are in the first week of Advent
that helps us recall the HOPE we have in Christ.
In the Covenant, God told Abraham
that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed.
Because of that Covenant, Abraham trusted and put his hope in God.
The Old Testament spoke of the coming of the Messiah, the Christ.
The promised Savior would be born a king in the line of King David.
He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.
**We, too, hope in God's promise to send the Messiah again
to this world to establish his kingdom forever.**

The gift of hope is our light shining in a dark place.
**As we look at the light of this candle
we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.**

St. Paul tells us: "... we rejoice in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
**and hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit." (Romans 5:3-5)**

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

Advent Wreath Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light

(#715)

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, 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

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Advent Prayer

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

Holy God,

with Abraham and Sarah and all the ancestors of old, we call you Father.
 Your love is revealed to us in the New Covenant,
 given by Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David.

Help us prepare to celebrate his birth,
 to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you.

Help us celebrate your promise of forgiveness and life
as we seek your strength to do your will
by sharing your hope with others.

We ask this in the name of the true gift of life,
the Child born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

† WORD †

Old Scripture Reading

1 Chronicles 11:1-9

A reading from First Chronicles.

¹Then all Israel gathered together to David at Hebron and said, “Look, we are your bone and flesh. ²For some time now, even while Saul was king, it was you who commanded the army of Israel. The Lord your God said to you, ‘It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over my people Israel.’” ³So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the Lord by Samuel.

⁴David and all Israel marched to Jerusalem, that is, Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. ⁵The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You will not come in here.” Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, now the city of David. ⁶David had said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and commander.” And Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, so he became chief. ⁷David resided in the stronghold; therefore it was called the city of David. ⁸He built the city all around, from the Millo in complete circuit, and Joab repaired the rest of the city. ⁹And David became greater and greater, for the Lord of hosts was with him.

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

Psalm 68:24-34

Let us read Psalm 68 responsively

²⁴They see your procession, O God,
your procession into the sanctuary, my sovereign God:
²⁵the singers go before, musicians follow after;
in the midst are maidens playing tambourines.

²⁶Bless God in the assemblies;
bless the LORD, you that are of the fountain of Israel.

²⁷**There is Benjamin, least of the tribes, at the head;
the princes of Judah in a company;
and the princes of Zebulon and Naphtali.**

²⁸Your God has ordained your strength;
your strength, God, which you displayed for us.

²⁹**Kings shall bring gifts to you, for your temple's sake at Jerusalem.**

³⁰Rebuke the wild animals that live among the reeds,
and the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples.
Trample down those who demand silver from us;
scatter the peoples that delight in war.

³¹**Let tribute be brought out of Egypt;
let Ethiopia stretch out its hands to God.**

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel;
whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

New Testament Reading

A reading from Luke.

Luke 1:5-17

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰Now at

the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

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

Luke 2:25-38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s

Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,

“This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

Children's Time

Sermon

Jerusalem

Hymn of the Day

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

#628

1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?

2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas-ant soil!

3 Thy gar-dens and thy gal - lant walks con - tin - ual-ly are green;

4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit and ev - er - more do spring;

5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.
there grow such sweet and pleas-ant flow'rs as no-where else are seen.
there ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing.
thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

Text: F.B.P., 16th cent.

Music: North American traditional; arr. Hymnal version

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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 God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction.
Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, vicars, pastors & bishops.
Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation.
Empower us to care for forests and oceans,
as we see you in the world around us.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

L God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators.
Cast out words of hate
and transform them into words for building up community.
Remake implements of war to sow peace.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P God of healing, bring comfort and strength.
We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing,
especially . . . Surround all with care and consolation.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

L God of new possibilities,
when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray,
show us how to journey with one another.

Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others.
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 God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace.
At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city
where peace and goodness make a home.
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
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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:

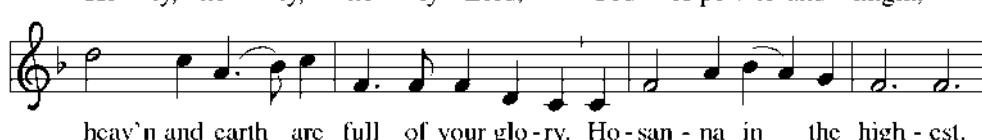
Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW setting 10



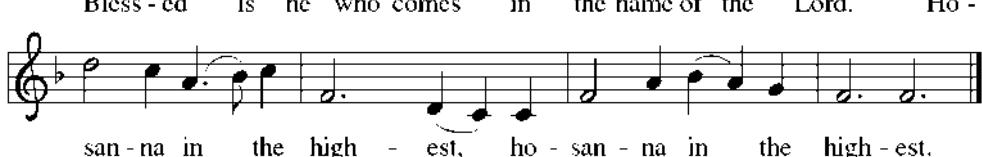
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-cr and might,



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

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

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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 ere-a-tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa-ther, Spir-it, Son.



once you sang ere-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.

Hymn continues on the next page.



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

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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

Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace

(Tune #779)

1. "Lord, let your servant go in peace;
2. Through all the sorrow, pain and death,
3. There's much we can not understand,
4. Lord, let your servants stand, know

Word has been ful - filled." Be - cause we've seen your
dare, O God, to sing. For you once sent your
or - der, nor con - trol; we place our lives in -
we are not a - lone; and may we find, wher -

sav - ing grace we know that all is well.
son to earth, and that changed eve - ry - thing.
to your hands and trust you'll make us whole.
e'er we go, you'll lead us safe - ly home.

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. © 2010 Used by Permission.

Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949; Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Nativity Sudoku

T	V		N
D		N E	
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ADVENT

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STABLE



MANGER

JOSEPH

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