

**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

PRELUDE

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

- Forrest/ arr. Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Seasons come and seasons go,

C but our God endures forever.

P Our faith exhibits ebb and flow,

C but our God endures forever.

P Our lives may freeze up or may grow,

C but our God endures forever.

So let our souls magnify the Lord our God this day.

~ written by Harry Disher, Grand Bend/Greenway P.C., Etobicoke, Ont. Published in Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2004–2005, produced by the United Church of Canada. Please credit the author. <https://www.united-church.ca/worship>

Please rise as you are able.

GATHERING SONG

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Down

ELW265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
Glo - ri - a!

CONFESSIONS & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P God of might,

C we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

P God in our midst,

C we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

GREETING

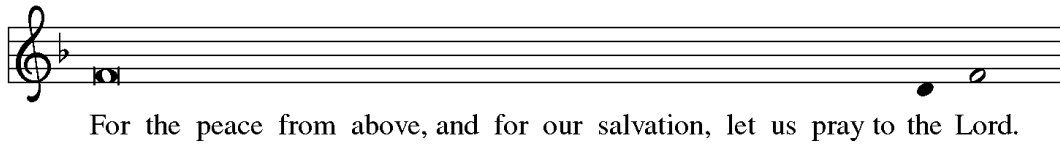
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

C And also with you.

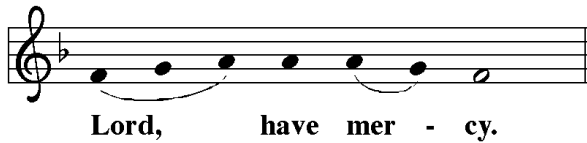
KYRIE



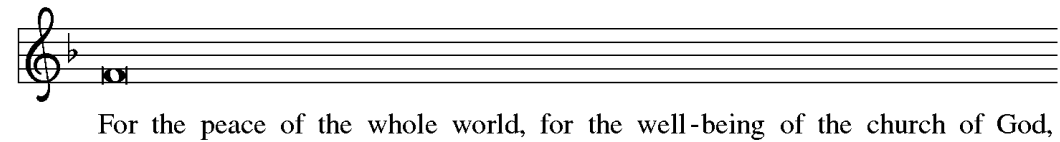
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



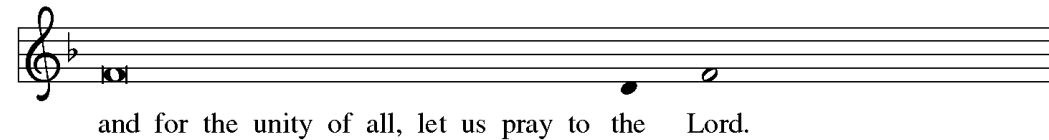
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



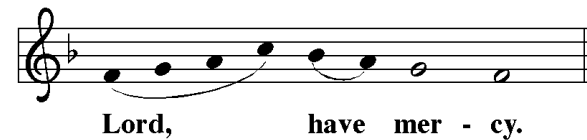
Lord, have mer - cy.



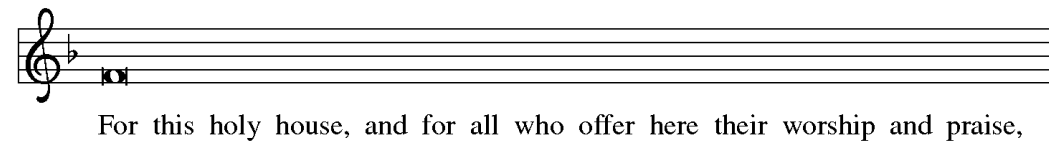
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



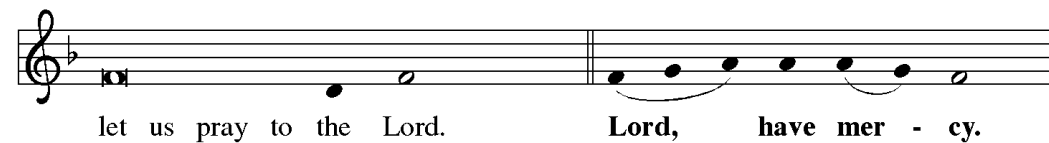
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



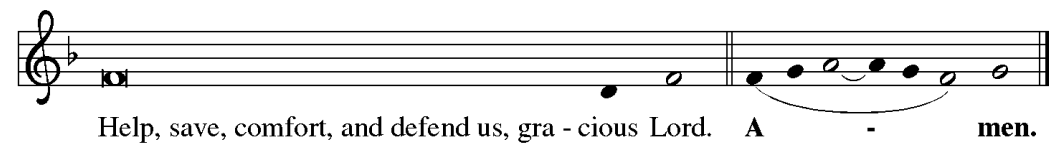
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P In this season of longing and anticipation,
we remember Mary and Joseph,
giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience,


**C stepping out into the unknown in the strength of the Spirit,
playing their part in the fulfillment of God's plan.**

P In this season of longing and anticipation,
we pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives,


C that when God's gentle whisper breaks through
the clamor of this world into our small corner,
we might be ready to listen, and having listened, ready to act.

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG *Season of Longing and Anticipation*
(Stanza 4 only)

Cantor/Choir:



In this sea - son of long - ing and an - ti - ci - pa - tion,




God is at work in the heart of cre - a - tion, of - fer - ing all new



life and sal - va - tion:

- Advent:*
1. A righ - teous branch springs up!
 2. A voice cries out, "Pre - pare!"
 3. Re - joice, the Lord is near!
 4. A wom - an ans - wers God's call!

All:



O - pen our eyes to sights, signs, and won - der; o - pen our



ears to hear your word; o - pen our hearts to live with each



oth - er in

- Advent:*
1. hope, In - car - nate Lord!
 2. peace,
 3. joy,
 4. love,

PRAYER FOLLOWING LIGHTING

P Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace

L Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7 (Congregation Reads Bold Text)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

L Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL LUKE 1:39-45 [46-55]

The holy gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
 50 His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
 51 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
 53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
 54 He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jeannie Phillips

SERMON

Pastor Wes

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

APOSTLES' CREED

P Gathered together by the power of the Holy Spirit we confess our common 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 to the dead.*
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 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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. ** meaning - all of God's Church.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we anticipate the coming of Emmanuel, God with us, let us offer our prayers for all individuals and communities yearning for the divine touch.

A moment of silence.

P God of unity, foster collaboration and understanding among us, especially in our interactions with those from different faiths and beliefs. Plant your church firmly in the transformative message of your incarnation, empowering us to advocate for your righteousness in our world. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Creator God, we celebrate the splendor of nature that envelops us. Stir within us a deeper commitment to protecting the wildlife and natural habitats in our area. Shape us into diligent guardians of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sovereign Lord, inspired by Mary's song, embolden us to champion policies that elevate the downtrodden and satisfy the needy with abundance. Inspire our local leaders and governments to prioritize the welfare of those often marginalized or forgotten. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of light, as we progress toward longer days, remind us that your presence illuminates even our darkest moments. Bring solace to those who feel alone or grieving. Embrace those who are dealing with fear, anxiety, depression, or illness. On this day we pray especially for **Tina, Tom, Dave, Kathy, Bill, Marilyn, Brenda, John, Pat, John, Charlotte, Paige, Michael, Kat, Dorothy, Mimi, Theresa, Janice, Patrick, LCFS**, and for all those we now name in our hearts or in Your presence. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Guiding God, lead the leaders of our congregation. Bless our governance board and staff with wisdom as they discern the path for our future ministries and open their ears to the needs and voices of our community. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of eternal life, we are thankful for your enduring promises. In remembrance of those who have passed, we celebrate your unceasing fidelity throughout the ages. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Savior of the nations, come; graciously accept these prayers and the silent yearnings of our hearts, in the holy name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jesus blessed the peacemakers and called them "children of God." When we share peace on this planet, we are doing the work of God. We are God's hands and feet of peace. Take a moment and share the peace of Christ with your neighbors, family, and friends.

P May the peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by placing an offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online through our website, or the QR code. If you would like more details on direct deposit, please contact our office administrator for more information at office@clczionsville.org.



OFFERING



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
 Creator God,
 you made the whole world,
 even the farthest stars,
 and you draw near to feed us.
 We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
 Strengthen us with this food
 that we may live in expectation
 for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING**DIALOGUE**

P The Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

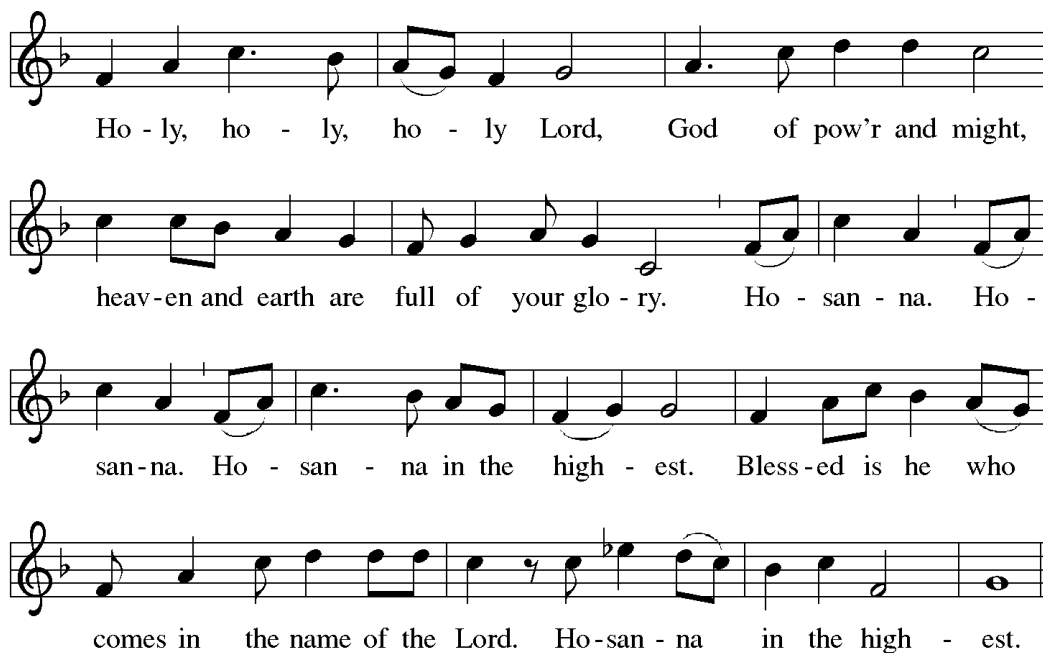
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P 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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

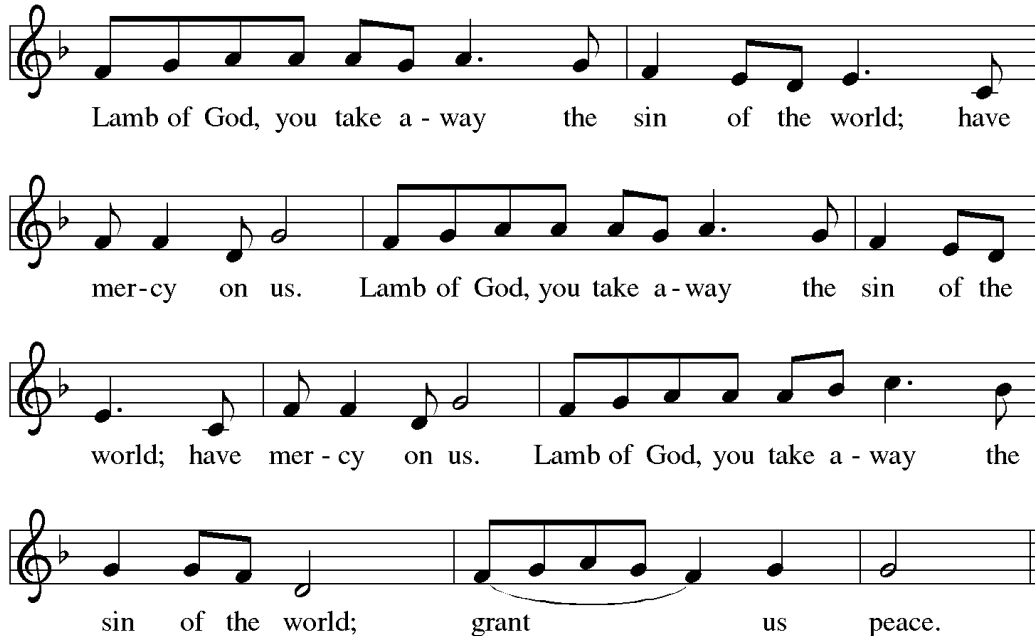
Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Everyone is invited to partake in the Lord's Meal, whether it's been years or just a week since your last took communion. The presence and gift of Jesus is for all. Follow the ushers' directions to come forward, where Pastor Wes will offer you a wafer, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you." After consuming the wafer, choose wine or juice from the communion assistant, who will say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Please deposit used communion cups in the designated receptacle. If you're considering your first communion and have questions, please consult with Pastor.



COMMUNION SONG



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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.

C Amen.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C Amen!

The musical score is written for a soprano and bass voice part. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system has lyrics: "Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el,". The second system has lyrics: "his name is called Em-man-u-el;". The third system has lyrics: "God with us, re-vealed in us;". The fourth system has lyrics: "his name is called Em-man-u-el." The music is in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics spread across the notes.

DISMISSAL

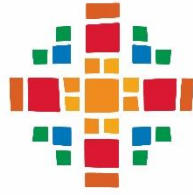
P Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune – Angels from the Realms of Glory

Linker



**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE

SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Lector:	Mary Steinke
Communion Assistant:	Gretchen Jeffers
Greeter:	Bill Steinke
Usher:	JoAnne Tuffnell
Nursery:	Cheryl Kussow
Hospitality:	Will Luczak & Andi Hardesty
Financial Assistants:	Cindy Cannedy & Dawn Firmani
Altar Guild:	Barbara Burkhardt, Connie Steinhart & Linda Callecod
A/V Assistant:	Greg Holbrook

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Connie Steinhart

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Please scan if you would like to give an electronic offering.

