

Gifts from the Manger

**Zion Lutheran School Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
Zion Lutheran Church, 186 Cole Road, Monroe, MI**

Thank you for coming to our school Christmas service!

The Zion students and teachers are excited to be able to share the message of Jesus' birth with you this morning in Word and song. Please be considerate of the following requests:

- As you enter our worship space, we ask that you find your seats in a quiet and respectful manner, and that you and others attending be appreciative of the student musicians' efforts as you listen to the preservice music prepared by the piano students and handchime choirs. Please keep any conversation quiet and to a minimum.**
- Please silence your cell phone.**
- The service is being recorded and will be streamed and available on our church website. We ask that phones and cameras be put away so that both the children and the congregation can focus on the message from God's Word. After the service you are very welcome to come to the front and take pictures with your child and family by the Christmas trees.**

We thank you for your kind consideration, and pray that this evening's service of praise to our glorious God and Savior may be a blessing to you.

Preservice Music by Zion piano students of Mrs. Sitzman

JJ Burke, Jonah Burke, Jaylynn Burke, Analynn Colunga, Jamil Dunlap, KJ Dunlap, Lukas Freiny, Nathan Freiny, Amiya Gutschow, Noelle Hatfield, Katelyn Lach, Emmett Letasse, Violet Letasse, Bryce Mueller, Joseph Ortiz, Enna Sitzman, Ezekiel Sitzman, Eloise Sordahl

Preservice Music by Handchime Choirs A and B

Gifts from the Manger - Zion Lutheran School Christmas Service

Written by Karen Maio

Children's Processional

Welcome by Pastor Sitzman

Opening Song: "It's Christmastime" - Grades K-8

God Gives Us the Gift of the WORD Made Flesh

Narration - Bryce Mueller
Luke 1:30-38 - Grades 3-5

Narration - KJ Dunlap
John 1:1-3, 10-14 - Grades 6-8

Hymn - Congregation: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

***Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.***

***Not by human flesh and blood, by the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.***

***Praise to God the Father sing, praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally!***

God Gives Us the Gift of the KING

Narration - Kayley Grubb
Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7 - Grades 6-8
Luke 2:1-7 - Grades 3-5

Hymn - Children and Congregation: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Children - stanza 1

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Congregation - stanzas 2 and 3

***Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

(stanza 3 on next page)

***Hail, the heav,nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!***

God Gives Us the Gift of JOY

Narration - Caitlin McCullough
Luke 2:8-12 - Grades 3-5

Narration - Callen Clements
Isaiah 35:10 - Grades 6-8

Hymn - Congregation: "Now Sing We Now Rejoice"

***Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thous my Savior art!***

***Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!***

***Now through his Son oth shine the Father's grace divine,
Death o'er us had reign-ed through sin and vanity;
He for us obtain-ed eternal joy on high.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing with all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing in heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!***

Christmas Message - Pastor Sitzman

God Gives Us the Gift of LOVE

Narration - Anna Koppal
Romans 6:23 - Kindergarten
John 3:16 - Grades 1-2
Luke 2:3-14 - Grades K-2

Song - Warrior Voices and Grades K-2: "Christmas Gift of Love"

God Gives Us the Gift of HOPE

Narration - Josie Ansel and Echo Seibert
Titus 3:7 - Kindergarten
1 Peter 1:3-4 - Grades 1-2

Hymn - Congregation: "I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes"

*I am so glad when Christmas comes, the night of Jesus' birth,
When Bethl'em's star shone as the sun, and angels sang on earth.*

*The little child of Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.*

*He lives again in heav'ns realm, the Son of God today;
And still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.*

*I, too, shall sing my Savior's praise, my joy, my crown, my Lord;
For he has made me his own child by water and the Word.*

*And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus, too;
And that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.*

God Gives Us the Gift of LIGHT

Narration - Matthew Loos
John 8:12 and John 1:4-9 - Grades 6-8

Song - Grades 3-8: "Shine On Me"

God Gives Us the Gift of LIFE

Narration - Vita Pillarelli
Romans 6:4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:24, and Galatians 2:20 - Grades 3-5

God Gives Us the Gift of PEACE

Narration - Lily Sordahl
Luke 2:14 and John 14:27 - Grades K-2
Romans 5:1 - Grades K-8

Hymn - Children and Congregation: "Silent Night"

Children - stanza 1
Silent night, holy night! All is calm. All is bright.
'round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace - sleep in heavenly peace.

Congregation - stanzas 2 and 3 (on next page)

***Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heav'n afar; heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluiah!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"***

***Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.***

Prayer - Pastor Sitzman

Responsive Prayer - Pastor and Congregation

Pastor: Dear Lord Jesus, you came into this sin-sick world to be our Savior from sin.
Congregation: We thank you for your gift of love as the Word made flesh.

Pastor: You show us that you are the true and only way to salvation and how we are a new creation in you.
Congregation: We thank you for your gifts of light and life.

Pastor: We rejoice with the angels that we can come before you in prayer and gladly proclaim the news of our Savior's birth.
Congregation: We thank you for your gifts of peace and joy.

Pastor: Reign in our hearts, Lord Jesus, both now and in eternity.
Congregation: We thank you for your gift of hope through the newborn King.

Blessing - Pastor Sitzman

Closing Hymn - Congregation & Children: "Joy To the World"

Children - stanza 1

*Joy to the world; the Lord is come; let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

Congregation - stanzas 2-4

***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.***

(Interlude)

***No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.***

Thank you to our students and teachers for their preparations and presentation of God's Word to us this evening!

Special thanks to our accompanist, Zion alumnus Miller Sordahl, now a student at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw.

Most importantly, thanks to God for giving us voices to speak and sing, gifts and abilities to glorify Him, and a reason to rejoice in our salvation and declare his praises in our worship and in our lives. Christ the Savior is born!

You and your family are welcome to join us at Zion Lutheran Church for
Christmas Worship:

Sunday Worship - December 24 at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship, Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship - Monday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.

God's blessings to your family as you celebrate Christ's birth!

Student Service Folder Cover Artists:

Ryleigh Michaud, Shamus Gilliland, Emilia Chapman, Violet Letasse, Noelle Hatfield, Nathan Freiny, Kiki Swibert, Kate Lach, Eloise Sordahl, Anna Koppal and Vita Pillarelli