**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2022**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle by the Johnson/Hokanson family**

**Christmas Eve: The Christ Candle**

**Candle Lighting:** On this most holy day we light all four candles in our Advent wreath, and we are reminded of the Expectation, Preparation, Proclamation, and Revelation of His coming. Now we light the Christ Candle, we rejoice that the promise of God has been fulfilled in the coming of the Baby born in a manger.

**Prayer**: Gracious and Mighty King, we celebrate your goodness to us as we join the triumph and joy of Christmas. As your love has been reveled in all of its fullness, we pray that love may abound in our hearts during this special day. Grant us the spirit of Christ that we may live in the fullness of his character every day. In His name we pray. Amen.

**Gathering Song**



**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**  **Isaiah 9:2-7**

2 The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
 on them light has shined.  
 3You have multiplied the nation,  
 you have increased its joy;  
 they rejoice before you  
 as with joy at the harvest,  
 as people exult when dividing plunder.  
 4For the yoke of their burden,  
 and the bar across their shoulders,  
 the rod of their oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
 and all the garments rolled in blood  
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
 6For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders;  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
 7His authority shall grow continually,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Gospel Acclamation: The First Noel, Verse 1**



**GOSPEL Part 1 Luke 2:1-7**

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



**GOSPEL Part 2** **Luke 2: 8-14**

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"



**GOSPEL Part 3**  **Luke 2: 15-20**

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CHILDREN’S Sermon Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

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**CREEDAL HYMN** ***Tune: “From Heav’n Above”*** ***# 358***

**God’s gift des-cends from Heav’n on High.**

**The Baby in the Manger lies.**

**Our Father has sent us His Son**

**That we with Him might now be one.**

**Christ Jesus is our Holy King!**

**To Him glad praises we shall sing!**

**Upon a cross deep sorrows bring;**

**He lives, so death has lost its sting!**

**The Spirit comes, the Church’s seal!**

**Christ comes, in Water, Word and Meal!**

**With angels let us now proclaim**

**We do believe God’s Saving Name!**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Wonderful counselor, on this holy night your church throughout the world celebrates the Word of God being born among us. Endow your church with a zeal for sharing your love and grace with all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of hosts, the heavens are glad, the earth rejoices, and the trees sing for joy at your coming. Grant us wisdom to care for your creation in ways that benefit all of your creatures. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Prince of peace, your grace has appeared and brings salvation to all. Bring healing to people and nations divided by violence (especially). Direct the leaders of the nations, so that in self-controlled, upright, and godly living, they may work toward peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God of mercy, you come among us as a vulnerable infant. Protect all in need: those without homes or caregivers, those who grieve, all who are hungry, and all who are ill. We pray especially for the people of Ukraine. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we praise you for gathering us tonight to worship in holy splendor. Direct our worship, fellowship, and service, so that our lives and Christian witness may be pleasing to you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, your steadfast love never ends. Thank you for revealing your faithfulness and love to us through the saints of every time and place . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

**OFFERING SONG**



**THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**



May the Lord be wi-th you. **May the Lord remain with you.**





Lift your hearts to God in praise --**To the Lord our hearts we raise.**





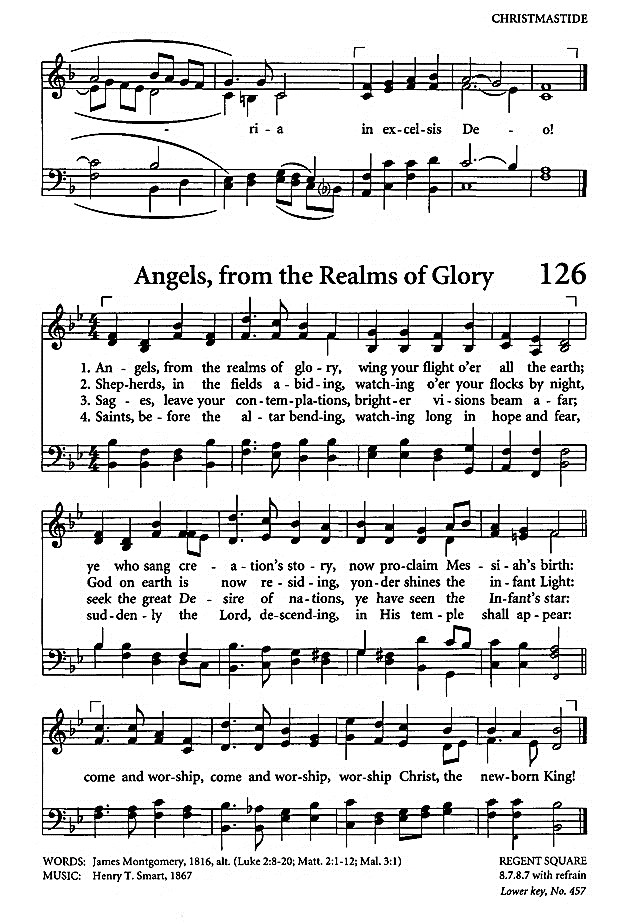
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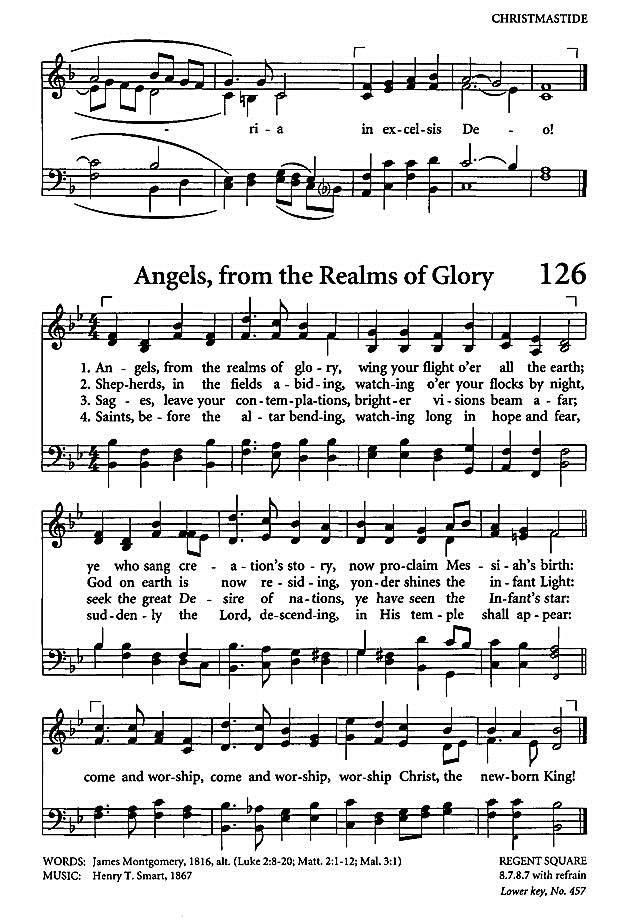


**in Excelsis De -- o! Glo-----------------------------**





**-------------------------- ria, in Excelsis De -- o!**



**Pastor sings this alone until refrain---**



In the Word of God made flesh — Great and wondrous mystery



 — With the Church in Heav’n and earth, celebrate Christ’s Holy Birth:





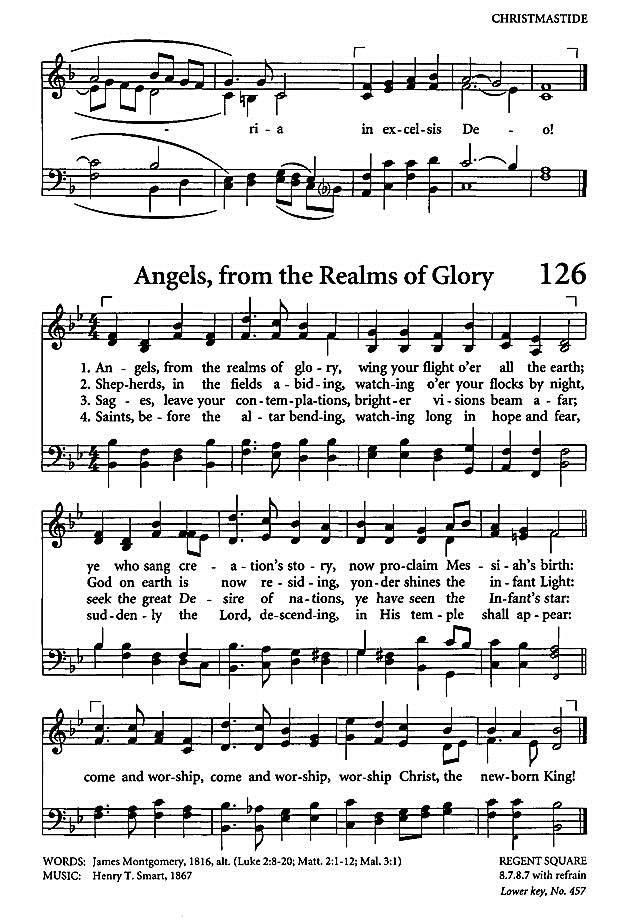
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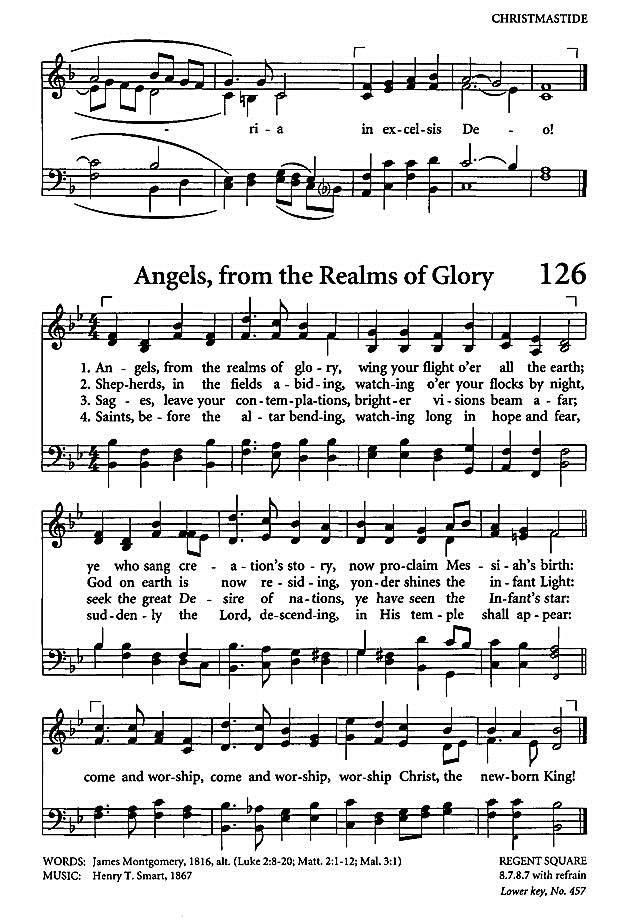


**in Excelsis De -- o! Glo-----------------------------**





**-------------------------- ria, in Excelsis De -- o!**



SANCTUS



**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, Mighty God of Sabb-aoth,**





**Heav’n and earth Your glory fills , Blest hosannas in Your name:**





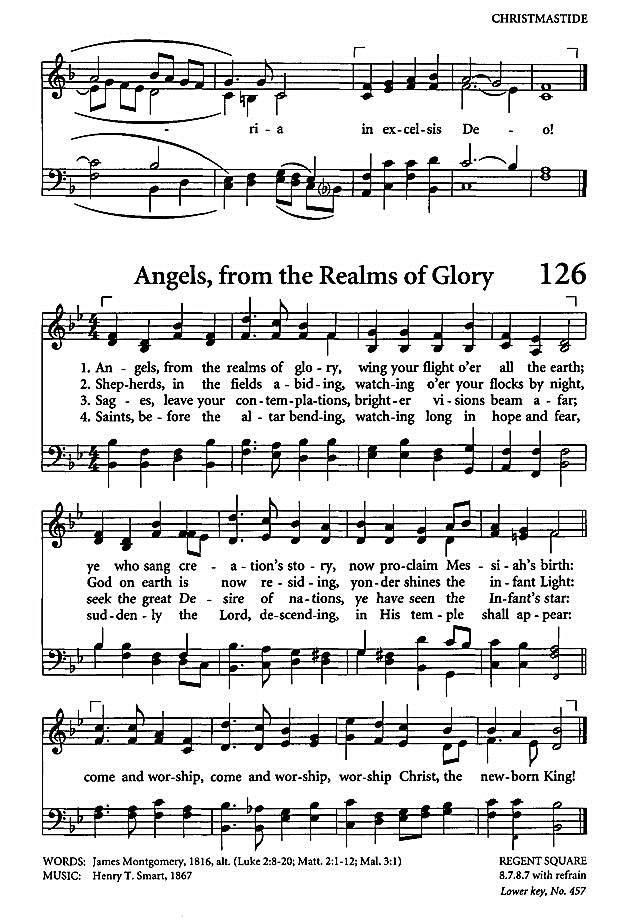
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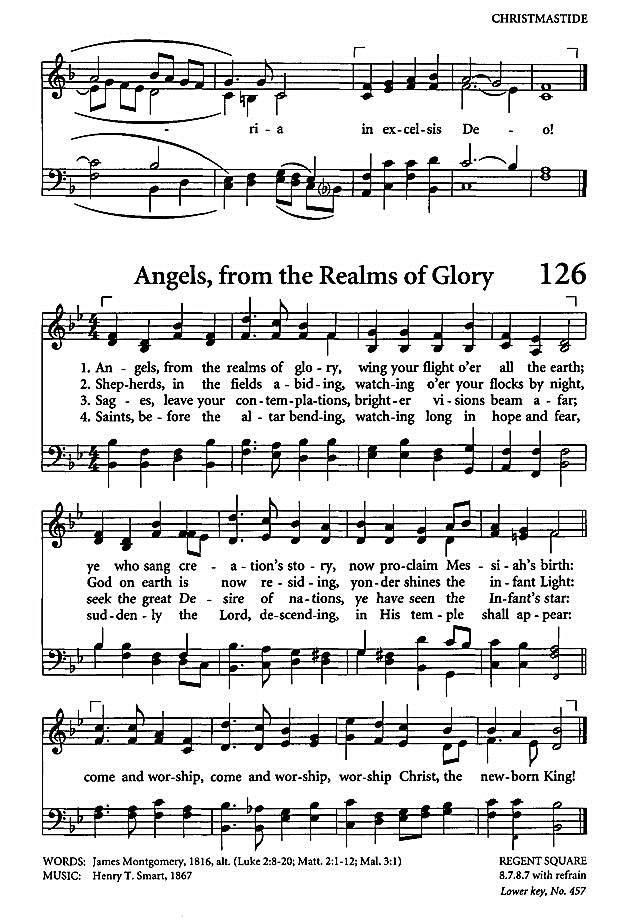


**in Excelsis De -- o! Glo-----------------------------**





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**Lord’s Prayer** *(Tune – “O Little Town Of Bethlehem”)*

**Our Father, Who on Heav’n’s High Throne, Most Holy be Your name.**

**Your Kingdom come, Your will be done On earth, in Heav’n the same.**

**Give us our daily bre-ad; Forgiven may we be;**

**Into temptation do not lead; From evil set us free.**

**Yours in the Kingdom, unto You In humble worship bow;**

**And ours the pow’r, Lord, let us trust Your Mighty presence now.**

**Your glorious praises su-ng; By angel hosts and men;**

**In ev’ry land and ev’ry tongue, Forevermore. Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *(Tune – “I Heard The Bells”)*

The night Lord Jesus was betrayed He took the bread and when He’d

prayed, and given to His disciples, said: “Now take and eat all from this bread.” “This is My + Body given for you”, and ev’ry time that this you do, remember that I died to free; all men that they may come to Me.” And after that when He had supped and given thanks He took the cup, and then to His disciples said: “This is My + Blood; foryou it’s shed.” “Now drink the Cup, for this is new, My Testament, poured out for you; your sins are gone! Now this shall be fore’er a meal rememb’ring Me.”

**Invitation to Communion**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**communion**

**SongS During Communion**





**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** *(spoken)*

Let us pray: Help us and work in us, Great Lord, that what we have received with our lips inYour holy bread and cup we may keep with pure hearts, and that through this Holy Communion gift given to us in this present life we may hereafter receive life everlasting with You in Heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Dan Utterback “O Holy Night”

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**HYMN SILENT NIGHT**



**BENEDICTION** *(Tune – “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”)*



Now may the Lord be with you. / **And with you, His servant true.**





The Lord now bless and keep you; Shine His face up – on you;





Lift His fav – our up -- on you, and + grant You true, abiding peace –





**Christ is born to --- day! Christ is born! A - men.**



**Sending SonG**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder:                   Trustee: Jerry Engle**

**Acolytes: Anna Zylstra, Emil Meyers**

**Safety Person: Dan Zylstra**

**Offering Counters:**