

Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue

Rockford, Illinois

March 23, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Shelter of God

PRELUDE “Be Thou My Vision/Open Our Eyes” arr. By Mark Hayes
The Holy Spirit calls and gathers us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love. Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

Red Hymnal #445



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



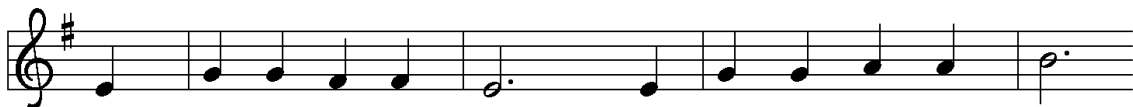
Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

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.**

KYRIE *(Kyrie eleison means "Lord, have mercy")*

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1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-lemn prayer.
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!



1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and
 2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our
 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer
 weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,
 bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you.
 where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.
 gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God's word of light.

Guide us O Lord.

PSALM 63:1-8

(Congregation reads the bold)

- ¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- ² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- ³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
- ⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
⁸ **My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

God's word of light.

Guide us O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Let Your Steadfast Love” Red Hymnal Page #189



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama

SERMON SONG

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

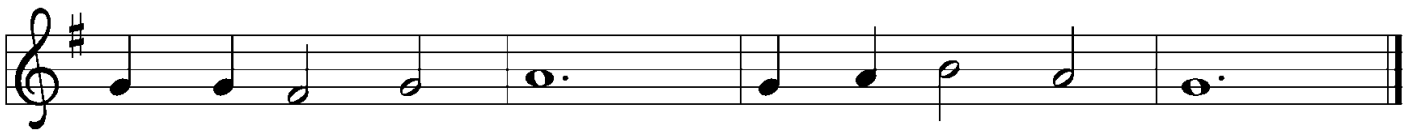
Red Hymnal #624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING “Goodness of God”

by Ed Cash, Ben Fielding, Jason Ingram, Brian Johnson and Jenn Johnson

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

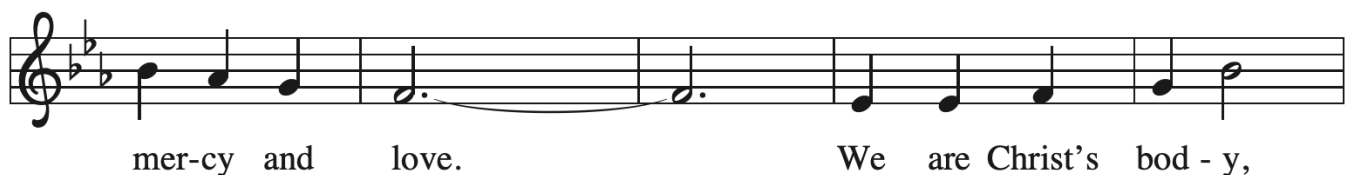
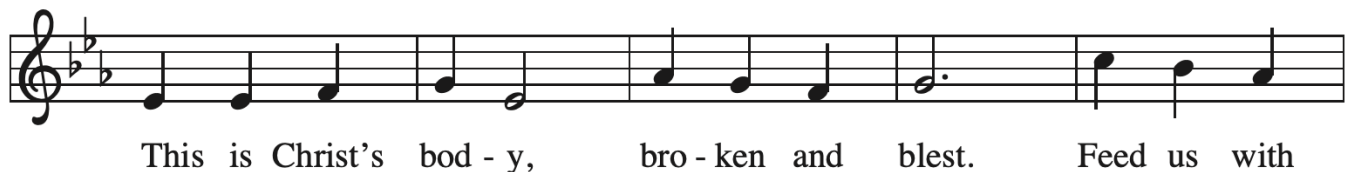
You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com or you can click on the QR code.



TABLE BLESSING

“This Is Christ’s Body”

ACS #967



THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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

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.

Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.

The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.

There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.

COMMUNION SONGS "When We Are Tested" (from ACS #922)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

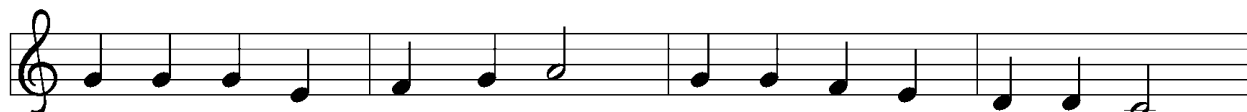
"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" Red Hymnal #811



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" Red Hymnal #658



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

SENDING

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Joysong”

arr. By Mark Hayes

2025 Midtown Midweek Lenten at Noon

Turning Toward God's Abundance

EXERCISE CLASS BEFORE AT 11:00AM LED BY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES
SIMPLE LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP

March 26 at Calvary/Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon
Preacher: Pastor Frank Langhoff

April 2 at First Lutheran Church at Noon
Preacher: Student Pastor Rachel Perkins

April 9 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon
Preacher: Pastor Bill Dahlberg
(No exercise class today)



WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant: Laurie Pellant
 Fellowship:
 Media:
 Music: Jodi Beach
 Readers: Jane Burden
 Sound: Deangelo Brunson
 Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY
Fourth Monday at 1:00pm
 Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!



WORSHIP LEADERS Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOZ-- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Date: During March we are requesting donations of **Bars of Soap and or Toilet Paper** for distribution at the Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. Thanks so much! The WOZ board

MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY at Zion, 9:30am in the Multipurpose Room. The Books "A is for Alabaster", a devotional that anyone can order.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups



Hello everyone! I just became certified to teach exercise classes! This is a 12-week course that focuses on strength training and balance! Class would be held twice a week for approximately 45 minutes. Dates and times are TBD. Please call me at 630-465-2135 or email if interested!

ALABAMA STORY

ARTIST ENSEMBLE THEATER

BASED ON A TRUE STORY OF A 1959 CENSORSHIP OF A CHILDREN'S BOOK IN THE JIM CROW SOUTH



APRIL 6, 2025
 2:00PM

TICKETS: \$28 FOR ADULTS &
 \$10 FOR STUDENTS



HELD AT ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY

THIS TRIP IS SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE
 925 FIFTH AVENUE – ROCKFORD, IL 61104 – 815.964.4609 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM

BAHAI TEMPLE TRIP

INTERFAITH EXPERIENCE TO WILMETTE, IL



MAY 31, 2025

8:00AM-4:00PM

TICKETS: \$50 FOR ADULTS &
 \$20 FOR STUDENTS
 (PAYS FOR BUS & LUNCH)

SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE
 925 FIFTH AVENUE – ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>

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YouTube

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 twitter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can volunteer
 as little as 2 hours a month
 Pantry is Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,
 and the Third Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am.
 Contact Peggy King at Cornucopia, 815.962.1380.

Cornucopia



Food Pantry

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier in Senegal.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones: Family of Bob Campbell, and Darlene Handlin.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jeannie Thomas, Brian Veitch, Mary Wedel, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Student Pastor Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship Third Sunday of Lent
	10:30am	Forum on Immigration: Know Your Rights led by Yenny Munoz-Swaninger
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose room
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	5:00pm	Human Resource Meeting
	6:00pm	Church Council Meeting—Multipurpose Room
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	12:00pm	Midtown Lenten Service—Calvary/Emmanuel
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
Sunday	9:15am	Worship Fourth Sunday of Lent

UPCOMING

April 2	Noon	Midtown Lenten Service—First Lutheran
April 5	9:00am	Cars & Coffee—RPS Parking Lot, Across from Katie's Cup
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen Community Meal
April 6	10:15am	Palm Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser
April 6	2:00pm	"Alabama" play by Artist Ensemble at Rockford University
April 13	10:15am	Palm Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser (\$10 adults and \$8 children)
April 17	Noon	Maundy Thursday Taize worship in the Atrium
April 18	Noon	Swedish Good Friday Service
	7:00pm	Good Friday Music Tenebrae
	8:00pm	"Jesus Christ Superstar" music singalong at Katie's Cup (donations at the door)
April 19	1:00pm	Easter Egg Hunt at Patriots
April 20	9:15am	Easter Worship

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* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>