

Take the child  
and his mother,  
and flee

MATTHEW 2:13

Edinburg Lutheran Parish  
St. Jacob's & Zion Congregations

December 28, 2025

Pastor Katie Gosswein Parsonage: 984-9260 Cell: 335-7758  
<https://elpva.org/>



**Remembering those who have requested prayer:** Dot Doolan, Sophia Gibb, Sonny Hovatter, Kitty Martz, Sharon Nichols... **and we further remember...** Steve Baker, Steve Campbell, Leannah Comer, Keith Cubbage, Burgess Dellinger, Roe Dias, Todd Edgerton, Carla Eickenhorst, Virginia Estep, Shelby Eye, Landon Fadely, Tammy Foltz, Diane Funkhouser, Harper Gochenour, Luther Gochenour, Peggy Graff, Podge Green, Terry Grigsby, Belle Hamman, Martha Harlow, Mike Harlow, Tim Harlow, Mike Heishman, Betty Helsley, Barbara Hollar, Ronnie Hoffman, Buck Jones, Danny Jones, Erica Lam, Jim Lam, Wade Ludwig, Tasha Mahony, Keith Manich, Toby Markley, Bonnie Mason, Erich McMinn, Evelyn Moomaw, Ron Moomaw, Jerry Newland, Anna Nilsen, Rick Painter, Bob & Jane Perry, Linda Perry, Jerry & Judy Polk, Larry Polk, Karen Polk, Ed & Bea Provost, Dennis Rigby, Steve Ritenour, Laurie Robinson, Roger Schmidt, Peter Shoemaker, Ed Sine, Dan Strother, Keith Taylor, Judy Tharp, John Wymer, and Christine Zuniga.

**We further remember** the family of Shelby Eye in prayer, asking that the Lord, who was her strength in life, would console all those who mourn. May Jesus, the child born in Bethlehem, continue to fill us with the hope of promises fulfilled for all He calls home.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Next Sunday: January 4 – Second Sunday of Christmas

**8:30 Worship** – Service of the Word at Zion – Hymnbook Sunday  
**9:45 Adult Sunday School** meets at both churches.  
**11:00 Worship** will be a Service of Holy Communion at St. Jacob's  
Call-in worship is always offered at the 11:00 service.  
Conference call: (425) 436-6395 Toll Free: (844)-854-2222  
Access Code: 377656 #

## DID YOU KNOW ?

The book of Revelation is known as the book of prophecy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Zion will have their year-end Congregational meeting TODAY** following the 11 AM worship. We encourage all voting members to remain in the sanctuary and on the phone to participate in this meeting, as we will discuss the 2026 budget, and elect our 2026 Council.

**Thank you** for all your kind remembrances during this holiday season and for your prayers throughout the year! It is a blessing to serve in this place, and I pray the Lord will continue to strengthen our work together into the new year! Thank you! Pastor Katie

**Special meeting on Sunday, January 11 from 3-5 PM: All Council members** are invited to a Central Valley Conference-wide meeting and brain-storming session with leaders from our fellow churches. Pastor John Wertz will be with us to guide the discussion on how we can support one another, as we ask ourselves the question of what we can do to build up the church? You are invited to bring finger food to share.

**Spring Forward** will resume classes on Tuesday, January 6. If you know of an elementary age student who would benefit from this tutoring and enrichment program, please let them know and encourage their parents to give Jane Perry a call. (540-477-2088)

**Wednesday in the Word** – Bible Study will resume at 6 PM on January 7 with a study on the Book of James.

**Zion's Blessing Box...**thanks abound for your generosity in supporting our community in this way. The Funkhousers report they were able to provide a little extra over these holiday weeks and felt doubly blessed to see donations of extra food appear! Thank you!

**It may not seem like much**, but your aluminum cans really do help! Next weekend the truck will appear in the back parking lot of Zion, ready to collect your donations, but you can also leave bags of cans in the little white cupboard in the back anytime.

**Would you consider helping care for Zion's U.S. flag?** The time has come for a change in the duty roster for the person who cares for our flag, lowering it on days that call for half-staff, as well as monitoring when it needs to be replaced. Please speak with the Pastor if you'd consider helping in this way.

**It served Zion faithfully for years and maybe now it can serve you?** Zion has one long pew that is no longer needed. Would you consider giving it a new home or do you know of a person or organization that could use it? Please contact Donna Mumaw (540-477-2686) if you're interested.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Zion Lutheran Church

In-Person + Drive-In + Call-In

December 27, 2020 + 11 AM

## Welcome

### Prayer of Preparation

Holy, holy, holy God of power and might, we come into your presence seeking to be among the prophets Simeon and Anna – those who recognized the truth of Jesus' true identity. We come in hopes of getting closer to this child that was born of humility and honor. Prepare us to receive the revelation of what a life in Christ means for us and for those around us. Make ready our hearts to recognize the true power of love among us. **Amen.**

### Confession & Forgiveness

O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned.

***In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.***

***Silence is kept for reflection***

Holy One, Savior and Healer of the world, we admit to you the frustration we feel for our part in the evil that infests humanity.

We are called to truth

*but we prefer darkness to light because in the dark we can hide from all our failings.*

We are called to hope

*but we slide into negative thoughts, fill our minds with doubts, and often feel lost.*

We are called to grace,

*but we are at times mean-spirited and selfish.*

We are called to mercy,

*but we harbor grudges, we question other's integrity and we take Your place in judging the sincerity of other's need..*

We are called to faith,

*but we live as if everything depended on us.*

We are called to love,

*but it rarely goes beyond loving those who love us in return.*

**— Silence is kept for reflection —**

God of abundant loving, please forgive Your church for our failure to uphold and express the generosity of Your ways.

**Forgive us for those sins of which we are ashamed, and for the sly sins which as yet we have not recognized and brought out into your light.** Please be to us, not the God we deserve but the Savior who heaps grace upon grace. In you alone we place our trust through Christ Jesus our Redeemer.

### ***Assurance of Forgiveness!***

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, **+** comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
**Thanks be to God!**

## Gathering Hymn

## O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

### Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

## Apostolic 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

## God's Word



## Celebrate Insert

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

## Prayer of Illumination

Holy Spirit, fire and wisdom of God, enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading and proclamation of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## The Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter....

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**The reading of the Gospel**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

*What Child Is This*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!



Rembrandt's "Simeon and Anna"

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

## Offertory

(Spoken)

Create in me a clean heart O God  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and  
uphold me with your free spirit.

## Offertory Prayer

As the parents of Jesus brought sacrifices to honor you,  
O God, so may our working honor you,  
our giving be to your glory,  
and our living reflect your will for the world:  
in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Apostle's 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 Intercession

Back of the Celebrate Insert

## The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

## Sending Hymn

### Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. **[Refrain]**

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

## *Go Tell It On The Mountain*

## **Commission and Blessing**

Depart now in peace, for your eyes have seen the salvation  
which God has prepared for all people.

Grow in strength and wisdom  
and bring forth a harvest of righteousness and praise.

And may God the Father make you strong and wise;  
May Christ Jesus share his inheritance with you freely;

And may the Holy Spirit daily open your eyes to the  
presence of Jesus, the Messiah.

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace to serve the newborn King!

**Thanks be to God.**







## Second Reading

### Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.<sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,<sup>12</sup> saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

<sup>13</sup> And again,  
"I will put my trust in him."

And again,  
"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

## Gospel

Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt<sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.<sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.<sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham.<sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>18</sup> A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."<sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."



# Today's Readings

First Sunday of Christmas  
December 28, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

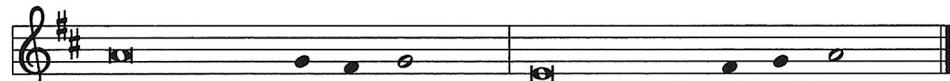
## First Reading

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,  
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done  
for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his  
mercy,  
according to the abundance of his  
steadfast love.

## Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,"  
and he became their savior  
<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and pity it was he who  
redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all  
the days of old.

## Psalm



Hallelujah!  
Praise the LORD<sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
praise God<sup>1</sup> in the heights.  
**2**Praise the LORD,<sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
sing praise, all you<sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.  
**3**Praise the LORD,<sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you<sup>1</sup> shining stars.  
**4**Praise the LORD, heavy<sup>1</sup> in of heavens,  
and you waters a<sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.  
**5**Let them praise the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
who commanded,  
and they<sup>1</sup> were created,  
**6**who made them stand fast  
forev<sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
giving them a law  
that shall not<sup>1</sup> pass away.  
**7**Praise the LORD<sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
you sea monsters<sup>1</sup> and all deeps;  
**8**fire and hail,<sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do<sup>1</sup> ing God's will;

<sup>9</sup>mountains<sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
fruit trees<sup>1</sup> and all cedars;  
**10**wild beasts<sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
creeping things and<sup>1</sup> flying birds;  
**11**sovereigns of the earth<sup>1</sup> and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers<sup>1</sup> of the world;  
**12**young<sup>1</sup> men and maidens,  
old and<sup>1</sup> young together.  
**13**Let them praise the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor  
is over<sup>1</sup> earth and heaven.  
**14**The LORD has raised up  
strength for the people  
and praise for all<sup>1</sup> faithful servants,  
the children of Israel,  
a people who are near the LORD.  
**1**Hallelujah!

## TODAY'S READINGS December 28, 2025

Volume 57, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12; Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-9] 10-18.  
TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship*, Year A (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year A.