

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025



At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

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Welcome to Zion!

“All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’” (Matthew 1:22-23)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

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

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #726

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

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.**

KYRIE

ELW Hymn #157

The assembly joins with the refrain, and the Minister sings the verses.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn #264

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

ELW Hymn #247

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

Let us pray together...**Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

We Feast at the Lord’s Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Great Thanksgiving is presented as a four-line musical score. Each line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and half notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line has a double bar line in the middle. The second line also has a double bar line in the middle. The third and fourth lines end with double bar lines.

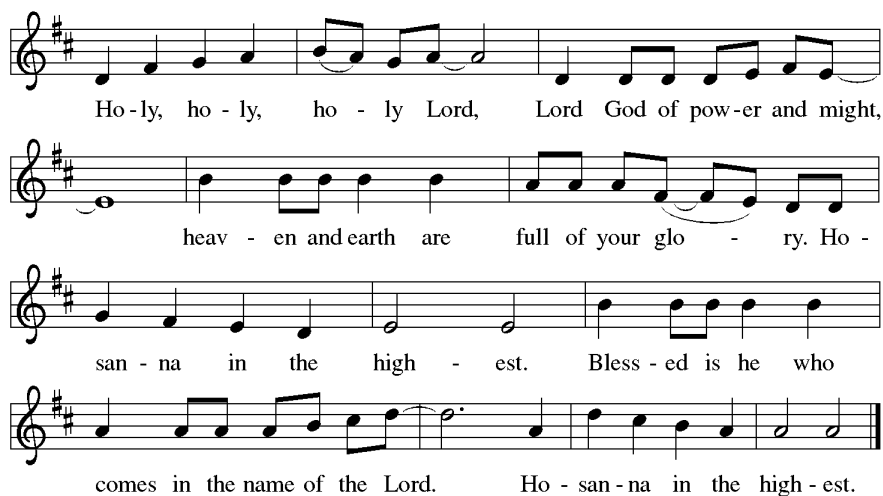
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, we give thanks for your creation, fragile, yet fruitful, enough for all. We give thanks that you call us into community where love and justice may flourish, enough for all. We give you thanks for sending us Jesus, God-with-Us, whose life, death and resurrection have become for us the Way to find you, to know you, to join with you in creating your new heaven and new earth.

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.

Come now, Holy Spirit—As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and wine become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing. As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform this community into one body in Christ.

Gather us, O God, into your Advent hope—into watchfulness, wonder, and joy. Strengthen us by this meal to love and serve in the world you so love, until the day when all are fed at your table of grace, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the
king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL

“He Came Down”

ELW Hymn #253

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

ELW Hymn #249

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Hymn #439, Verse 1

“Soon and Very Soon”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Christ is coming soon. **Thanks be to God!**

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Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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

Isaiah 11:1-10

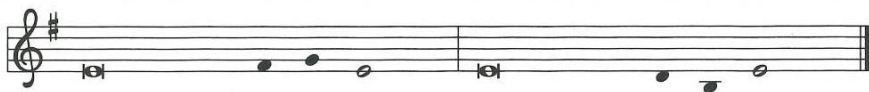
A shoot shall come out from the stump of
Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of
the LORD.
³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for
the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed
of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his
mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall
kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his
waist
and faithfulness the belt around his
loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with
the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like
the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole
of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its
hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge
of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand
as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be
glorious.

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; tone 8



Give the king your jus-¹ tice, O God,
and your righteousness
to¹ the king's son;
²that he may rule
your¹ people righteously
and the¹ poor with justice;
³that the mountains
may bring prosperity¹ to the people,
and the¹ hills, in righteousness.
⁴Let him defend the needy
a-¹ mong the people,

rescue the poor,
and crush¹ the oppressor.
⁵May he live as long
as the sun and¹ moon endure,
from one generation¹ to another.
⁶Let him come down like rain
upon¹ the mown field,
like showers that wa-¹ ter the earth.
⁷In his time
may the¹ righteous flourish;

continued

Psalm, continued

and let there be an abundance of peace
till the moon shall ¹ be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God,
the ¹ God of Israel;
you alone do ¹ wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious
¹ name forever,
and may all the earth
be filled with your glory.
A- ¹ men. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the
gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,
“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace in believing, so that you may
abound in hope by the power of the Holy
Spirit.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the
wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he

said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

TODAY'S READINGS December 7, 2025

Volume 57, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

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