

First Sunday of Advent

“Hanging of the Greens”

December 1, 2024



Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org

Welcome to Zion!

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” (Luke 3:4-6)

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

LITANY OF THE GREENS

How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus,
the eternal Christ?

With wreaths of pine and fir,

whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus,
our Savior?

With arrangements of holly and ivy,

symbolizing His passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus,
the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets

who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

All Glory to God in the highest!

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn #257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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

Hymn #157

“Kyrie eleison” is Greek for “Lord, have mercy.”

The assembly joins with the refrain and the Cantor sings the verses.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.**

**By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers
of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live
and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

PARAMENTS

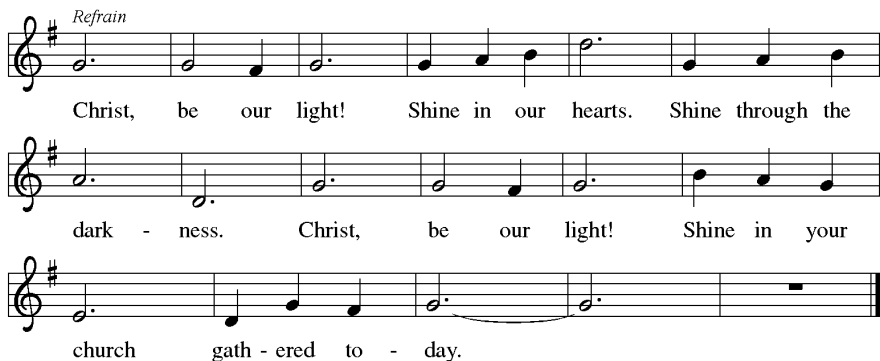
A reading from Isaiah: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." (Isaiah 40:3-5)

We place the Advent paraments, which are blue, a color of hope and expectation, but also comfort, reminding us that our hope is in Jesus who is coming soon. And so we cry in this Advent season: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

ADVENT WREATH

A reading from Jeremiah: "The days are surely coming says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which He will be called: 'The Lord is our Righteousness.'" (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

The Advent Wreath is a vivid symbol of preparation. The lighting of a new candle each of the four weeks before Christmas reminds us that something is happening, but more is yet to come. The circle of evergreens reminds us of the everlasting covenant offered in the birth of Jesus. The four candles symbolize **hope**, **peace**, **joy**, and **love**. Today, we light the first candle as a symbol of Christ, our hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.



WREATHS

A reading from Isaiah: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, among them a light has shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

From ancient times, evergreens have been considered a symbol of eternity, a sign of God's everlasting nature. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang wreaths shaped in circles as a sign of everlasting life. These are symbols of Christ's gift of eternal life and of the celebration of Christmas itself.

POINSETTIAS

A reading from Numbers: “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near...a star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.” (Numbers 24:17)

The poinsettia speaks to us symbolically in several ways. The star shaped formation of ten leaves calls to mind the star which shone that first Christmas. In a less joyous sense, the color of the flower is blood red, reminding us of the male infants killed because King Herod wanted to eliminate any threat to his throne. We sometimes forget this part of the story, which made it necessary for Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child to flee to Egypt.

Hymn: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (Hymn #272, Verses 1 & 4)

MANGER

A reading from Luke: “And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:6-7)

The manger, or crèche, is placed as a reminder that Jesus Christ was born in the humblest of places, because humankind would not make room in their heart to hold the Son of God. Jesus, who

was born in this most modest beginning, has compassion on all God's children—from the humblest to the richest.

Hymn: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Hymn #276)

CAROLING

A reading from the Psalms: “O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth, sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.” (Psalm 96:1-4a, 6)

We are a singing church. Martin Luther believed that, next to the Word of God, music deserved the highest praise. The singing of carols is one of the greatest joys of the season.

Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Hymn #283, Verse 1)

EVERGREEN TREES

A reading from Micah: “But you, O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from ancient days. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and He shall be the one of peace.” (Micah 5:2, 4)

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We have placed these trees in the sanctuary as a symbol of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming will purify our hearts.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

A reading from John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in

the world, and the world came into being through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born not of the blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1-5, 9)

As our final preparation for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we will light the evergreen trees. Whenever you see a lighted tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light into our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him. May these trees remind us of the life-giving cross, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.

Hymn: “Joy to the World” (Hymn #267, Verses 1 & 2)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Christopher Kyle Clark, son of Kelsey & Ian Clark

Bailey Joy Kratz, daughter of Kayla & Joseph Kratz

Emma Amelia Lowe, daughter of Kristen & Paul Lowe

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together...**Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Strengthen us with this meal that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC

“It’s About the Cross”

Cantor Peter J. Rizzo, solo

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Music by Cantor Peter J. Rizzo

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



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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Welcome to the Lord's table.

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.
u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

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...**Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Hymn #439, Verse 1

“Soon and Very Soon”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

License & Copyright Information

Bulletin cover art by John Stuart (www.stushieart.com). **Portions of the liturgy** are from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS014917. **Hymns & songs** reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731250 & CCLI License #1376892. **Scriptures** taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA.

Advent & Christmas at Zion & Evergreen Academy

Sunday, December 1st at 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Advent
"Hanging of the Greens" Worship

Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays in Advent — Week 1

Sunday, December 8th at 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Advent
Second Sunday Healing Service

Wednesday, December 11th at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays in Advent — Week 2

Sunday, December 15th at 11:00 a.m.
Third Sunday in Advent

Monday, December 16th at 10:30 a.m.
Evergreen Academy
Two Year Olds
Holiday Talent Showcase

Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.
Evergreen Academy
Three Year Olds & Pre-K
Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22nd at 11:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Annual Meeting (Following Worship)

Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Sunday, December 29th at 11:00 a.m.
4th Annual Casual Christmas

Sunday, January 5th at 11:00 a.m.
Epiphany Sunday
"Taking Down the Greens" Worship



ZION
Ministries
Under the Cross
Deerfield Beach, Florida

NINA'S
Place
A free community
market & pantry



6TH ANNUAL REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

WEEK 1 December 1-7

Canned Soups
Canned Tuna
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruits

WEEK 2 December 8-14

Church	Preschool
Granola Bars	Canned Chef
Boxes of Crackers	Boyardee Pasta
Bags of Rice (1 lb)	Boxes of
	Mac & Cheese

WEEK 3 December 15-21

Boxes of Pasta
Jars of Pasta Sauce

WEEK 4+ December 22 - January 5

Church	Preschool
Mayonnaise	Peanut Butter
Mustard	Jelly
Ketchup	

To contribute financially rather than shop, use the QR code on the inside front cover or visit our website at www.zion-lutheran.org.