

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE
SUNDAY DECEMBER 11 2022
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings, **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Prepare the Royal Highway* (ELW 264)

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

GREETING (ELW p. 138)

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 p. 138)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light three candles.

He Came Down (ELW 253) vs 1-3

1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional. Text: Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

MIXED CHOIR - "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" by Mary Louise Bringle. Music - Welsh Melody

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146:

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the captive free.

⁸**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hark, the Glad Sound!* (ELW 239)

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751. Text: Public Domain.

APOSTLES CREED (ELW p. 104)

**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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict (*regions in turmoil may be named*). Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss (*especially*) Ann, Jason, Erna, Richard, Marilyn, Margaret, Martha, Elizabeth, Lani, Charlotte, Ella, Erica, Rhonda, Heather, Aileen, Brenda, Ruth, Anneliese, Kaitlyn, Danita. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 106)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring* (ELW 691)

1 Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring
to place upon your table.

We do not worship as we ought
but only as we're able.

3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares
we lift in prayer before you.

Lord, by your grace now come to us,
as humbly we adore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957. Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us
messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and
justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 107)

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 our thanks and praise

PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 108)

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 (ELW p. 112)

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 112)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Creator of the Stars of Night* (ELW 245)

1 Creator of the stars of night,

your people's everlasting light,

O Christ, redeemer of us all,

we pray you hear us when we call.

2 When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blessed mother mild.

3 At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.

4 Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

5 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund. Used by permission. One License # A- 728050.

SONG DURING COMMUNION *All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra* (ELW 266)

1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!

All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he his present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946. Spanish text © 1993 and tr. © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in
the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises
will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us
toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and
Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the
grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *People, Look East* (ELW 248)

1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today--
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today--
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,

one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today--
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today--
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965. Used by permission. CCLI License # 11528343.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

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Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Ann Beech, Jason Godin, Erna Handke, Richard Hubert, Marilyn Kathen, Margaret King, Martha Kodzynski, Elizabeth Kuehl, Lani Lange, Charlotte Layden, Ella Lehman, Erica Loevenmark, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Aileen Roesler, Brenda Sperberg, Ruth Thom, Anneliese Trautrim, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Danita Wolfgram.

Please Pray For Those Who Mourn The Loss Of Loved Ones; especially this day we pray for Lori Scott & family as they mourn the loss of Lori's mother, Reanie Marie Fraser, that they may find comfort in the promises of our risen Saviour.

News & Announcements

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes for 2023 are ready for pickup on the stage in the Parish Hall. Please take yours plus any family members home today.

CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE AND CAROL SING

On Sunday, December 11th from 3:30pm-5:30pm, join us for an open mic afternoon! Bring instruments and voices, Christmas Carols, Local Musicians! Hot chocolate, cider, coffee, tea and juice will be served with sweets and appetizers.

ADVENT OPEN HOUSE AT PASTOR SCOTT'S AND PASTOR SUE'S on Saturday, December 17th at 7pm. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUNDAY AND POTLUCK

Come to worship on December 18th to see the story of the birth of Christ re-enacted as you have never seen before! There will be a potluck to follow!

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

If you wish to sponsor a poinsettia, or make a donation to a special fund in memory of a loved one, or in thankfulness to God for His many blessings, please make your **written** request on a donation form (*located at the entrances to the sanctuary*), and deposit it either in the offering basket, or place it in the office correspondence mailbox located on the steel office door by the elevator. Filling out one of these forms will ensure that your announcement will appear exactly as you wish. Your special Christmas donation may also be designated to one of the following funds: Building, Organ Restoration, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), Good Shepherding, General, etc. **The last day to make this special request is December 20th.**

DEADLINE

Just a reminder that this Friday is the deadline for the January issue of the Guiding Light. Please have all submissions in to Shelley at the church office by this date. Thank you.

CONGREGATIONAL TABLE TALKS

Just as Martin Luther sat around the table in a pub discussing theology with his students, we want you to join us. We will be gathering around tables with coffee and tea to talk about how you think your church Zion is called to

do ministry. This is your chance to be heard. Come out after worship on January 8, 2023.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

2:00pm – Family Service

4:30pm – Candlelight Service

7:00pm – Candlelight Service

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

During the month of December, Confirmation Classes will run from 6pm-8pm every Wednesday at the church.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Give Gifts from the Heart this Christmas. Canadian Lutheran World Relief's new "Gifts from the Heart" catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Copies are available at the entrances to the sanctuary, by emailing clwr@clwr.org or you can shop online at clwr.org/GFTH.

Messy Church is another alternative, in addition to Sunday School (not in place of), that is held in the evening once a month. It includes Food, Crafts, Games, Faith Talk, and Fun! It is for all individuals young and old.

The "**Living Stones**" worship is cancelled in December due to Christmas activities. Our next service will be Sunday, January 15th at 12:30pm.

Advent Midweek Services

Beginning Wednesday, November 30th at 6pm and continuing every Wednesday until December 21st. The service will be longer this year with a combination of hymns, sermon and Holden Evening Prayer.

Today's Scheduled Worship Volunteers

Worship Assistant: Lorraine MacKenzie

Sexton: Karen Gauthier

Projector Operator: Krista Grosskleg

Video Recorder: Ellen Vandersleen

Sound Operator:

Counters: Doug & Pauline Malliff, Sandra Graham

Altar Care: Sandra Graham

Ushers: Peter & Patti Wegner

Coffee Hour: Peter & Patti Wegner

This Week at Zion – December 12 - 18

Tues	9:30am	Tai Chi
	7pm	Council Mtg. @ Pastor Scott's
	7pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Wed	10:30am	Mid Week Service
	6pm	Confirmation Class
	6pm	Mid Week Advent Service
	7pm	Men's Choir Practice
Thurs	9:30am	Tai Chi
	7pm	Mixed Choir Practice
	7pm	Music Healing Vets
Fri		Guiding Light Deadline
Sat	7pm	Christmas Party @ Pastor Scott's
Sun	10am	Christmas Pageant followed by Pot Luck