

# **Zion Lutheran Church**



***Third Sunday of Advent***

***5:30 p.m. December 14, 2024***

***9:00 a.m. December 15, 2024***

*Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

## Welcome

**Welcome to worship at Zion Lutheran Church. May this time honor God and inspire you.**

**Worship details:** In this bulletin, **bold print** indicates the congregation's responses. **Assisted listening devices**, which are cleaned, disinfected, and have earpads replaced after each service are available in the narthex; ask an usher. **Hospitality details:** A **family restroom** is located in the hallway next to the sanctuary. **If you are visiting today**, please feel free to sign the Guest Registry located in the narthex. We ask that ALL members, regular visitors, and guests **sign the pew pad sheet**, so that we can better get to know each other.

### PRELUDE

### RINGING OF BELL

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" **ELW (red book) # 257**  
Verses 5 & 6

**CHILDREN'S SERMON-** (*We invite our children to come forward as we sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GREETING

**GATHERING SONG** "On Jordan's Banks the Baptists Cry" **ELW (red book) # 249**  
Verses 1 & 2

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Malachi 3:1-4** *God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of

silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** "Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken"



Lis - ten to the word that God has spo - ken; lis - ten to the One who is



close at hand; lis - ten to the voice that be - gan cre - a - tion;



lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

Text: Anonymous, Canada

Music: LISTEN TO THE WORD, Anonymous, Canada; adapt. *Church Hymnary*, 4th Edition, 2005

**GOSPEL AND PSALMODY**

"Luke 1:5-25, 57-80; 3:7-18

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

<sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup>Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with

the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." <sup>19</sup>The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup>When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup>When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

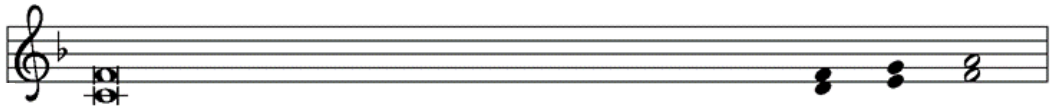
<sup>24</sup>After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup>"This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." <sup>61</sup>They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup>Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

*Refrain*

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God the  
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.



1 Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
2 You have raised up for us a might - y Savior,  
3 Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
4 to show mercy to our forebears,  
5 This was the oath you swore to our fa - ther Abraham:  
6 free to worship you without fear,  
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
8 to give God's people knowledge of sal - vation  
9 In the tender compassion of our God  
10 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,



1 you have come to your people and set them free.  
2 born of the house of your ser - vant David. *Refrain*  
3 from the hands of all who hate us,  
4 and to re - member your ho - ly covenant.  
5 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6 holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. *Refrain*  
7 for you will go before the Lord to pre - pare the way,  
8 by the for - give - ness of their sins.  
9 the dawn from on high shall break up - on us,  
10 and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Refrain*

<sup>80</sup>The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin 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. <sup>9</sup>Even 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."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked John, "What, then, should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>John said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

<sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts

concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, burning the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations John proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ

*Sit*

**(9:00) FAITH FOUNDATIONS STUDENTS HELP TELL THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

*Away in a Manger*

*Angels, We Have Heard on High* ELW #289

Children sing verse 1; congregation sings verses 2 and 3

(5:30) **SERMON:**

Pastor Julie Higgs

*Stand*

(5:30) **HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding” ELW (red book) # 246

(5:30) **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy.

Please respond with: **Receive our prayer.**

**P** Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## PEACE & NOISY OFFERING

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*(Offering plates will not be passed during the service, but are available at the sanctuary entrance.)*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“We Are Waiting for Jesus”

ACS 905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957  
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen  
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## OFFERING PRAYER

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

Stand

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... .. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!





Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

*Please sit. All who trust that Christ is truly present in the sacrament are welcome to partake of this meal. All are welcome to come forward as the ushers direct you. However, you are also welcome to remain in your pew and the Lord's Supper will be brought to you; simply let the usher know your desire when they come to your pew.*

*Wine, grape juice and gluten-free options are available. The grape juice is the light colored liquid in the center ring of the trays. Place your empty glass in the receptacle available as you head back to your seat via the side aisle.*

*Communion music*

*"Come, Let Us Eat"*

*ELW (red book) # 491*

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

*ELW (red book) # 471*

*Stand*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C** Amen.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. 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.

**SENDING HYMN:**

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

**ELW (red book) # 250***(Children are invited to come forward during the Sending Hymn"***BLESSING***The congregation turns to the center aisle and sings this blessing to one another:**As you go on your way, may Christ go with you.**May he go before you to show you the way;**May he go behind you to encourage you;**Beside you to befriend you;**Above you to watch over;**Within you to give you peace.***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JESUS!****DISMISSAL****P** Go in peace. Christ, Emmanuel, is with you.**C** **Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE****Copyright**

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**WORSHIP LEADERS****5:30 pm****9:00 am****Proclaimer:**

Pastor Julie Higgs

Pastor Julie Higgs

**Organist:**

Donica Vonderohe

Donica Vonderohe

**Worship Assistant:**

Diane Honeywell

Jeanne Crow

**Communion Servers:**

Linda Shaff &amp; Linda Dutchess

Willard Larsen &amp; Linda Gruhn

**Greeters:**

Linda Shaff

Richard &amp; Cynthia Pedersen

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** this weekend are provided by Lynn McGraw in memory of Jim McGraw's birthday on December 19th.**FELLOWSHIP IN THE GATHERING SPACE** this Sunday is being hosted by Faith FUNdations.

Thank you for hosting!

**ZION'S CHRISTMAS EVE RADIO BROADCASTS:** This year's 7:00 pm service will be recorded and aired on KROS (105.9 FM & 1340 AM) at 10 pm on Christmas Eve & 12 noon on Christmas Day.

**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!** Annual reports will be due soon. The deadlines this year are:

- \* **Monday, December 30th**, for reports that do not require end of the year financial information.
- \* **Monday, January 6th**, for reports that require end of year financial information.

**NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY**, an ecumenical service hosted by the Clinton Ministerial Association, will be on the front lawn at St. Paul Lutheran Church Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 2 pm. If the weather is bad, it will be held in the fellowship hall.

### **HAPPENING AT ZION THIS WEEK:**

Tuesday, December 17th: 5:30 pm– Boy Scouts

Wednesday, December 18th: 9:00 am– Morning Prayer/Bible Study

10:00 am– Zion Book Club

5:15 pm– Faith FUNdations & Confirmation Christmas Caroling

5:30 pm– Bells Rehearsal

6:30 pm– Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 20th: *Pastor's day off*

Saturday, December 21st: 2:00 PM– National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service

5:30 pm– Worship

Sunday, December 22nd: 9:00 am– Worship

### **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Saturday, December 7th 5:30 attendance 72

Sunday, December 8th 9:00 attendance 95

Total Weekend In-Person Attendance 167

## **Note these Extra-Special Worship Events in December!**

**Weekends in Advent, November 30-December 22**

**Lighting Advent Candles      Gradually Decorating the Sanctuary      Traveling Nativity Figures**

**Christmas Eve—Tuesday, December 24                      4:00 pm Praise Band; 7:00 pm Organ**

**Both services: Carols, Candles, Children's Time, the Christmas story!**

**Trees, ornaments, greenery, poinsettias, lights**

**Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the Shepherds arrive at the stable!**

**Christ is Born!!**

**Saturday and Sunday, December 28 and 29**

**More Christmas Carols!**

**Because Christmas is a Season, not just One Day!**



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**439 Third Avenue South**  
**Clinton, IA 52732**

## ***Zion Contact Information***

***Rev. Julie Higgs, Pastor***  
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***Kelly Bork, Child Care Director***  
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***Amanda Deuermeyer, Office Administrator***  
***officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org***

***Donica Vonderohe, Music Director***  
***music@zionlutheranclinton.org***

***Patrick Hoffman, Custodian***

***Church Address***  
***439 3rd Ave S.***  
***Clinton, IA 52732***  
***Phone: 563-242-7391***

***Child Care Address***  
***430 3rd Ave S***  
***Clinton, IA 52732***  
***Phone: 563-243-9393***

***The 9:00 am worship service will be broadcast on***  
***KROS, 1340 AM and 105.9 FM, at 10:30 am***