

Zion Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:30 p.m. December 20, 2025

9:00 a.m. December 21, 2025

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

HYMN: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

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GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verse 7 **ELW (red book) # 257**

At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

C **O Emmanuel, surprise us by your coming.**

We gather together to let God’s good news reorient our lives.

C **O Emmanuel, surprise us by your coming.**

We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us.

C **O Emmanuel, surprise us by your coming.**

We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment.

C **O Emmanuel, surprise us by your coming.**

Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of love.

C **Amen.**

(Light all four candles.)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verse 8 **ELW (red book) # 257**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated

Isaiah 7:10-16 *An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you

weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (read responsively)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Romans 1:1-7 *Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly may stand

(5:30) **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community

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(9:00)

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Bell Choir

Matthew 1:18-25 *Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

The assembly is seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON:

Pastor Paul Holmer

The assembly may stand

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"No Wind at the Window"

ACS # 906



1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:
4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;



no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.



no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
The time for re - deem - ing, the world has be - gun,
both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,



just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."
both . . vic - tor and . . vic - tim, both . . yours and di - vine.
re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . God I say yes."

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: COLUMCILLE, Irish melody

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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: God of Grace. Please respond with: **Hear our prayer.**

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C** **And also with you.**
We share Christ's peace with one another.

The assembly is seated.

NOISY OFFERING Gifts received in the Noisy Offering will be split between
ELCA World Hunger and local food pantries

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

The assembly may stand.

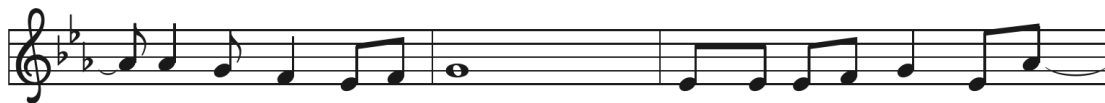
OFFERING RESPONSE

"Blessed Is the One"

ACS # 929



Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes



in the name of the Lord.

Bless-ed is the one who comes



in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Text: Psalm 118:26

Music: BLESSED IS THE ONE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977

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OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

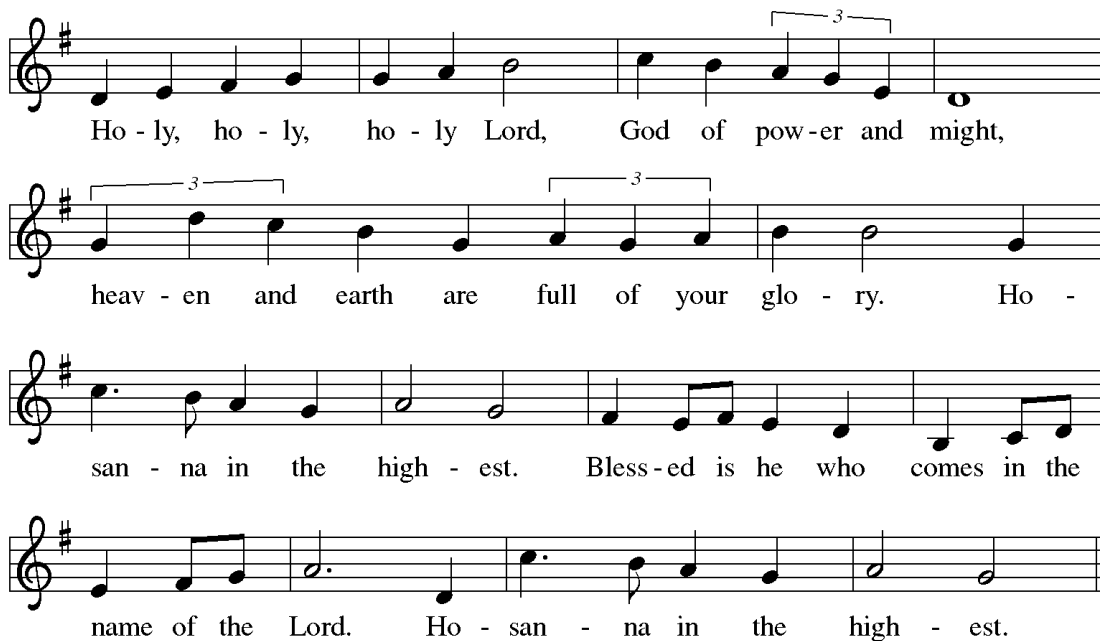
P Lift up your hearts.

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:



Music: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

The assembly is seated. 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 Hymns:

(9:00) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
 "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

Bell Choir
ELW (red book) # 247

The assembly may stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. **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

P 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.
C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

“Joy to the World”

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:

Pianist:

Worship Assistant:

Communion Servers:

Greeters:

5:30 pm

Pastor Paul Holmer

Brittany Costello

Patti Lauritzen

Marsha Smith &

Roxanne McElroy

Linda Shaff

9:00 am

Pastor Paul Holmer

Brittany Costello

Marilyn Fee

Willard Larsen &

Andrea Barnett

Michael Vonderohe & Children

ALTAR FLOWERS this weekend are given by Lynn McGraw

PLEASE HELP THE FOOD PANTRY!!! The increased need at the IRAS Food Pantry has put a considerable strain on their ability to fill food boxes. Would you please consider using the “Food Pantry” envelope in your offering envelopes to make a monetary donation AND/OR bring food items for the grocery cart in the Narthex?

Most needed food items:

Canned Meat	Canned Vegetables	Instant Potatoes	Pancake Mix
Soup/Ramen	Peanut Butter	Canned Fruit	Mac n Cheese
Pasta	Pasta Sauce	Boxed Dinners	Cereal

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will be held on Wednesday, December 24th, at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE RADIO BROADCAST: The 7:00 pm service will be broadcast on KROS (1340 AM and 105.9 FM) at 10:00 pm Christmas Eve and again at 12:00 pm (noon) on Christmas Day.

HAPPENING AT ZION THIS WEEK:

- Monday, December 22nd: 5:30 pm– Girl Scouts
- Wednesday, December 24th: **Office Closed**
- 4:00 pm– Christmas Eve Worship
- 7:00 pm– Christmas Eve Worship
- Thursday, December 25th: **Christmas Day—Office Closed**
- Saturday, December 27th: 5:30 pm– Worship
- Sunday, December 28th: 9:00 am– Worship

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Saturday, December 13th 5:30 attendance	36
Sunday, November 14th 9:00 attendance	<u>63</u>
Total Weekend In-Person Attendance	99

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872



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Zion Contact Information

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***The 9:00 am worship service will be broadcast on
KROS, 1340 AM and 105.9 FM, at 10:30 am
Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sundays
www.facebook.com/zionlutheranchurchclinton***