

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church



***2nd Sunday of Advent
5:30 p.m. December 4, 2021
9:00 a.m. December 5, 2021***

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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.*

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION TO DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RINGING OF BELL

(Stand)

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God for whom we wait,

C **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace

C **Amen.**

SONG: "Even So Come" by Tomlin, Cates & Ingram

Pages 10-11

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

P We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Sit)

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.*

¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:68-79 (*read responsively*)

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear, ⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Philippians 1:3-11 *The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

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Luke 3:1-6 *John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every 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; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

(Sit)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

“Living Between Steps”

Pastor Mark Luepke

(Stand)

SONG:

“God With Us” by Ingram & Jordan

Pages 12-13

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: Hear us, O God.

Please respond with: **Your mercy is great.**

P God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(Sit)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

P Rejoice! Emmanuel, “God with us,” shall come to you. May we always share the gifts God has given us, so that others may be blessed with and through God’s gifts. May we share in our giving, in our proclamation, in our actions, and through our very presence.

(9:00) MUSICAL OFFERING “Savior of the Nations Come”

Bell Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (sung twice)



He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er - more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this time of worship, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

(Stand)

LORD’S PRAYER

P As we wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord in all his glory, and are awakened to his presence every day, we pray together as he has taught us.

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.**

BLESSING

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
C Amen.

SONG: “Days of Elijah” by Robin Mark

Pages 13-14

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is near.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP LEADERS

5:30 pm

9:00 am

Proclaimer:

Pastor Mark Luepke

Pastor Mark Luepke

Band Director:

Donica Vonderohe

Donica Vonderohe

Worship Assistant:

Jurgen Duhr

Shirleen Jackson

ALTAR FLOWERS: As we enter the 2nd week of Advent, let us prepare our hearts & homes for the coming of Christ’s birth, through our prayer, special music and reflections of HOPE-PEACE-JOY-LOVE. Mike & Sally Kremer

COVID-19 & ZION’S WORSHIP SERVICES: Zion’s Congregation Council, guided by CDC guidelines, shares the following in regards to our worship gatherings. a) With Clinton county currently noted as being an area of “substantial or high transmission” of the coronavirus, both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to wear masks in indoor public settings. b) To provide social distancing, some pews are roped-off. In the event that all open pews are filled, individuals may need take a rope off to be seated in a roped-off pew. c) Offering plates are not being passed during the service. They are located at the entrances of the sanctuary. d) While the children’s room at the rear of the sanctuary is now open for use, the children’s activity bags are not yet available.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE? Zion will offer worship services on December 24th at 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 10:00 pm. All of the services will include Word and Sacrament, songs and carols, and candlelight. The 4:00 & 7:00 service will also include a children’s sermon, while the 4:00 will provide other participation opportunities for children.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING CANCELLED: With some care facilities not allowing caroling this year, and with the appearance of a new COVID variant, the decision has been reluctantly made to cancel this year’s Zion Christmas caroling. (Faith FUNdations and the confirmation class WILL still meet on Wednesday evening.)

ZION’S 38TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION: Pickup of auction items will be from 10 am to 12 noon on Sunday, December 5th.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Saturday, November 28th 5:30 in-person worship attendance | 46 |
| Sunday, November 29th 9:00 in-person worship attendance | <u>88</u> |
| Total Weekend In-Person Attendance | 134 |

HAPPENING AT ZION THIS WEEK:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Monday, December 6th: | 6 pm– Girl Scouts 6:30 pm– Elizabeth Circle |
| Tuesday, December 7th: | 5 pm– Executive Committee 5:50 pm– All Committee Night 6 pm– Foster Care Training |
| Wednesday, December 8th: | 5:15 pm– Faith FUNdations and Confirmation Class |
| Thursday, December 9th: | 6:30 pm– Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday, December 10th: | <i>Pastor’s Day Off</i> |
| Saturday, December 11th: | 9 am– Child Care 3 Year Old Class Christmas Program 10 am– Child Care 4 Year Old AM Class Christmas Program 11 am– Child Care 4 Year Old PM Class Christmas Program 12 pm– Child Care Staff Christmas Party 5:30 pm– Worship |
| Sunday, December 12th: | 9 am– Worship |

POINSETTIAS

OR

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

You are invited to help decorate the altar for Christmas services with poinsettias. If you wish to contribute to this effort, please complete this form and place it and your donation in an envelope marked "Poinsettias".

As an alternative, donations may also be given to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. Please complete this form and place it and your donation in an envelope marked "Disaster Response".

Checks for either gift should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church and should be given by December 16th. All gifts will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias may be picked up after the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service or the following Sunday.

Name _____

Donation to: Poinsettias Disaster Response
(please circle one)

In honor/memory of: _____

_____ I wish to take a poinsettia home after worship services.

_____ I wish to donate my poinsettia and have it given away.

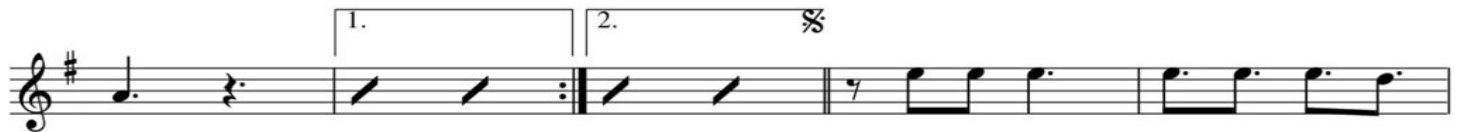
Even So Come



1. All of cre - a - tion, all of the earth
2. Call back the sin - ner, wake up the saint,



make straight a high - way, a path for the Lord; — Je - sus is com - ing
let ev - 'ry na - tion shout of Your fame; — Je - sus is com - ing



soon.
soon.

Like a bride wait - ing for her



groom, we'll be a Church — read - y for You. Ev - 'ry heart long - ing for our



King, we sing: E - ven so, — come, Lord Je - sus come. E - ven so, —

2nd time to Coda



— come, Lord Je - sus come.

3. There will be jus - tice,



all will be new. Your name for - ev - er, faith - ful and true;

D.S. al Coda



Je - sus is com - ing soon.

Coda



So we wait, we wait for You.

God, we



wait; You're com - ing soon.

So we

Like a bride

wait - ing for her groom, we'll be a Church — read - y for You. Ev - 'ry heart

long - ing for our King, we sing: sing: E - ven so, — come, Lord

Je - sus come. E - ven so, — come, Lord Je - sus come.

E - ven so,

God, we wait, we wait for You. God, we wait; You're

com - ing soon. God, we wait, we wait for You.

Yes, we wait; You're com - ing soon.

God, we wait; You're com - ing

soon, — oh! Like a bride wait - ing for her groom, we'll be a Church .

— read - y for You. Ev - 'ry heart long - ing for our King, we sing:

sing: E - ven so, — come, Lord Je - sus come. E - ven so,

God With Us



1. Oh, You've come —
(2. Oh, You've come) —



— to bring peace, — to be — Love, — to be near-
— to be Hope — to this — world, — for Your hon -



- er to us. — You've — come — to bring life, — to be — Light, —
- or and name. — And You've come — to take sin, — to bear — shame, .



— to shine bright - er in us. — Oh, — Em - man - u - el,
— and to con - quer the grave. — Oh, — Em - man - u - el,



God with — us. Our De - liv - er - er, — You are Sav - ior. —
God with — us.



In Your pres-ence, we find — our strength o - ver ev - 'ry - thing, — our Re-demp - tion, —

Last time to Coda ⊕ 1. 2.



God with — us. You are — God with — us. 2. Oh, You've come us.



You are here. You are ho - ly. We are stand - ing —



1. repeat as desired 2.
in Your glo - ry. in Your glo - ry, — Lord. — Our De - liv - er - er, —

You are Sav - ior. — In Your pres - ence, we find — our strength

o - ver ev - 'ry - thing, — our Re-demp - tion, — God with — us. D.S. al Coda

Coda

us. Oh, — God with — us. You are —

God with — us.

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Days Of Elijah

1. These are — the days of E - li - jah, — de -
 (2.) these are — the days of E - ze - kiel, — the

-clar - ing — the Word — of the Lord; — And these are — the days of Your
 dry bones — be - com - ing — as — flesh; And these are — the days of Your

ser - vant, Mo - ses, right - eous - ness be - ing — re - stored; And
 ser - vant, Dav - id, re - build - ing — a tem - ple — of praise; And

though these — are days of — great tri - als, — of fam - ine — and dark - ness — and
 these are — the days of — the har - vest, — the fields are — as white in — the —

— sword; — Still we are — the voice — in the des - ert cry - ing, "Pre -
 — world; — And we are — the la - bour - ers in Your vine - yard, de -

-pare ye the way _____ of the Lord." _____ Be-hold He _____ comes, rid-ing on the clouds, .
 -clar-ing the Word _____ of the Lord. _____

_____ shin-ing like the sun _____ at the trum-pet call; Lift your _____

voice, it's the year of Ju-bi-lee, _____ and out of Zi-on's hill sal-va-tion comes.

1. _____

2. And

2. _____

There is no god like Je-ho-vah, there is no god like Je-ho-vah,

there is no god like Je-ho-vah, there is no god like Je-ho-vah.

There is no god like Je-ho-vah, there is no god like Je-ho-vah, there is no god like Je-ho-vah,

there is no god like Je-ho-vah. Hey! Be-hold He _____ comes, rid-ing on the clouds, .

_____ shin-ing like the sun _____ at the trum-pet call; Lift your _____

voice, it's the year of Ju-bi-lee, _____ and out of Zi-on's

1. _____ 2. _____

hill sal-va-tion comes. Be-hold, He _____ comes. _____

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