

SUNDAY WORSHIP
December 12, 2021

JOY



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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INTRODUCTION

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Arr. Burkhardt

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Sebastian Family—Candle of Joy

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light, there is JOY, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

HYMN Red hymnal #188

Create in Me a Clean Heart

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

HYMN Red hymnal #248

People Look East

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

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.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Bring Us Hope

Director: Susie Gray

Composer: Ruth Elaine Schram

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

R: ¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;

you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

R: ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red hymnal page 103

C: **Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel is **Luke 3:7-18**

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

P: ⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. 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. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers 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."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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 thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Shadow Puppet Theater

HYMN Red hymnal #253

He Came Down

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith,

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Response after each petition)

P: Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer . . .

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

OFFERING—INVITATION—God's Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG #815 (verse 1)

C: I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus
Refrain In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

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.

HYMN Red hymnal #267

Joy to the World

DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is: "Serving Christ through serving others."**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Arr. Wold

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Jeff Glawe
Greeters	John & Jill Greer
Reader	Chris Frame

Prayer concerns for Zion's prayer chain may be submitted using a 'Prayer Request' card from the pew rack.

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God by Earl & Cindy Moore in celebration of their 20th anniversary.

Total Attendance 12/4 & 12/5: 119

OFFERING: Total Unified: \$4,958.06

Total Building: \$ 680.00

Sunday School Attendance:

Children: 9

Adults: 18

TREASURER'S REPORT:

September 2021

Unified Giving: \$16,328.25

Expenses: \$20,783.21

Building Fund Giving : \$ 1,602.29

Mortgage Payment: \$2,500.00

Building Fund Balance: \$23,250.43

If you desire more detailed financial information there are ten copies of the balance sheet and income statement for the month of September 2021, on the table as you leave worship. If you have any questions please bring them to our next Council meeting.

THANK YOU to the Sebastian Family for lighting the Candle of Joy this evening.

THANK YOU to the Sunday School for presenting the Christmas Program this morning.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

In talking with Andy's Garden this past week, I was informed that they have no color choice for the poinsettia's. They will only be able to supply us with red this year due to supply problems. They are sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused.

MISSION OF THE MONTH / DECEMBER: Good Samaritan Fund assists individuals with utility bill help, rental assistance, gas, an emergency hotel stay, etc. No cash is given to the individual. We help in the form of a check to the a utility or rental company. A gas card only good for fuel is given when needed by an individual. For a hotel stay we work out an agreement with the person in charge. For food assistance we refer them to the Food Pantry. We do keep a list of individuals and their request in order to control repetitive requests.

DECEMBER COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Dec. 19 (3rd Sunday)

December 24 (Friday 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm)

There will be no Saturday service on Dec. 25th, Christmas day.

THERE WILL BE A CELEBRATION following worship services on Saturday, December 18 and Sunday, December 19. People of Zion Lutheran plan to participate in one of these fellowship gatherings as we celebrate our 7+ years in partnership with Pastor and Jackie. This is Pastor's last weekend leading worship. Pastor's last day at Zion Lutheran is December 23.

CALENDARS

2022 Wall Calendars are available. Beautiful sturdy calendars with NIV Bible verses and scenery for \$7.00 each. All proceeds go to the Zion Youth Gathering Fund.

FLOWER CHART

The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted. Please write you name under "presented by". You may also write a message to go in the bulletin (in memory of, in honor of, in celebration of . . . anniversary, birthday, graduation, special event etc.) on the chart.

Altar flowers are ordered from Always Blooming Flowers of Tipp and are \$40.00 for two vases. Color preference may also be requested. Payment can be put in your offering envelope (**please designate under other "altar flowers"**).

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the back of the church. Please pick up your box of 2022 envelopes as you leave worship. Please do not use these envelopes until Jan. 1 and Jan. 2, 2022.

WORSHIP SERVICE CHANGE

Please note that there will be no 5:00 pm Saturday service on New Year's day, Jan. 1st.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning in January, there will be an opening for the adult Sunday School teacher. If anyone is interested, please contact Jessica Dorn or Linda Holt. Linda is planning to begin a 6 week course titled "The Miracles of Jesus" in February.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 26 and Jan 2. Sunday School will resume on Jan 9th.