

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**  
**December 11, 2022**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**Christmas Program**

JOY



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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**Staff**

Dale Schaefer, Interim Pastor; Bill Jones & Susie Gray, *Choir Directors*;  
Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jessica Dorn *Christian Education Director*  
Linda Short, *Office Manager*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*; Tina Putnam, *Sexton*

## WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If this is your first visit, or if you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a “prayer request” or a “praise report”, please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

## INTRODUCTION

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Arr. Hobby

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** *Sunday School Group* Candle of Joy

**HYMN** Red hymnal #257 (verse 5,6)

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C: **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P: 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.*

P: God of new beginnings,

C: **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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN Red hymnal #253**

*He Came Down*

**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 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.**

**THE WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

**R:** <sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it 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. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say 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." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then 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; <sup>7</sup>the 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. <sup>8</sup>A 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. <sup>9</sup>No 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

R: <sup>7</sup>Be 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. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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 **Matthew 11:2-11**

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

P: <sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the 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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup>As 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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Truly 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

*MisFit Island*

**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 . . .**

**OFFERING—Invitation—God’s Work Continues**

**OFFERING 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.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER / WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** (All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)

**BLESSING**

P: 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.

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 near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Tocattina on Joy to the World*

Arr. Portman

**In Helpful Service**

Pastor	Dale Schaefer
Acolyte	Hannah Kessler
Greeter	Garvics
Reader	Lilian Nichols
Ushers	John & Dianne LeGros

*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 Gary & Kathy Groth in honor of their 53rd anniversary and their 6 grandchildren.*

**Total Attendance 12/3 & 12/4: 136**  
**OFFERING: Total Unified: \$5,511.00**  
**Total Building: \$ 310.00**

**Sunday School Attendance**  
 Adults: 12  
 Children: 16

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU** to the Sunday School for lighting the Candle of Joy this morning.

**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.

### FLOWER CHART

The 2023 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”**).

### THIS WEEK AT ZION:

<b>Monday, Dec. 12</b>	11:00 am	Quilting
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 13</b>	10:00 am	Quilting
	5:00 pm	Communications / Welcoming
	8:00 pm	AA
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 14</b>	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, Dec. 17</b>	5:00 pm	Worship
<b>Sunday, Dec. 18</b>	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday, Dec. 19</b>	11:00 am	Quilting
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 20</b>	10:00 am	Quilting
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 21</b>	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, Dec. 24</b>	5:00 pm	Worship—Christmas Eve
	7:30 pm	Worship—Christmas Eve
<b>Sunday, Dec. 25</b>	<i>No Worship—Merry Christmas</i>	
<b>Monday, Dec. 26</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>	