

**Sunday Worship**  
**December 10, 2023**

*PEACE*



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## **WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!**

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or 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**

*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Arr: Martin

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Sleeth - Reprinted with One License

Light one candle for hope  
One bright candle for hope  
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,  
He comes. He comes

Light one candle for peace  
One bright candle for peace.  
He brings peace to ev'ry heart,  
He comes, He comes

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Everlasting God,

C: **You love justice and You hate wrongdoing.**

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation's bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to You.**

**Make us glad to do Your will and to walk in Your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN Red hymnal #264**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

### **GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . .

C: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of Your only Son. By His coming strengthen us to serve You with purified lives; 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** Director Bill Jones

*O Come to Set Us Free*

Tune: Veni Emmanuel - Arranged by Mary McDonald

### **THE WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

R: <sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert

a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" and I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; His reward is with Him, and his recompense before Him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

R: <sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to Your land, O LORD; You have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: <sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people and blotted out all their sins.**

R: <sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for You speak peace to Your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to You.

C: <sup>9</sup>**Truly, Your salvation is very near to those who fear You, that Your glory may dwell in our land.**

R: <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C: <sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

R: <sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

C: <sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

### **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

R: <sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal #103**

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

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

P: The Gospel according to **Mark 1:1-8**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON** Pastor Dale Schaefer

**HYMN** Red Hymnal # 256

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

**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** *(Response after each petition)*

**P:** Lord in your mercy,

**C:** **Hear our prayer . . .**

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

**OFFERTORY SONG #188** *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**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.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN Red hymnal #249**

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

**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. Keep awake

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Arr: Childs

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God  
by the Garvic family .*

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

**In Helpful Service**

Pastor

Dale Schaefer

Reader

Chuck Drake

Greeters

Dale & Debbie Rudisill

Usher

Richard & Debby Geiman

**ATTENDANCE 12/2 & 3: 99**

**Unified Giving 12/2 & 3: \$6,464.00**

**Sunday School: Adults 13**

**Youth 2 Kids 6**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2024 FLOWER CHART:** The chart to sign up for flowers next year is posted in the fellowship hallway. ***Please indicate what they are honoring and color choices.***

### **MISSION OF THE MONTH: ELCA GOOD GIFTS**

On the Christmas tree in the lounge area, you will find ornaments that have pictures of animals and other needed items for those in need throughout the world. For example, you may pay for ten chicks for \$10, honeybees for \$20, seeds and gardening tools for \$50, a clinic visit for a child for \$10. You can also donate any amount of money and the Women of Zion can put the money toward a more expensive animal - like a goat for \$50!

Please take an ornament and return it with a check made payable to Women of Zion. Please place your check in the basket on the table in the lounge.

Any questions contact Deb Keppel.

**CHEER PLATES:** The Women of Zion will be doing cheer plates again this year and would appreciate any donations of fruits, nuts, cookies, candy, muffins, bread, mini breads, raisins, etc. Donations are due today, Sunday December 10th. Help is also needed to assemble them tomorrow, **December 11th at 10:00 am**, as well as to deliver the plates. Sign up sheets are in the fellowship hallway. Contact Sharon Byrd or Ginger Schaefer with questions.

### **ADVENT DATES:**

**Advent Service - Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

**Children's Service – Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.**

**Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

There is NO Sunday School that morning

Regular church service at 10:00 am and Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm

### **Staff**

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









